

ACC battle thrown open again

Lord Grade's former group Association of Communications Corporation is effectively up for sale to the highest bidder after the Court of Appeal declared invalid promises that would have given Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian financier, control for £36m. ACC directors were cleared of not acting in the best interests of their shareholders. Page 15

£567m profit for Barclays

Barclays Bank made record pre-tax profits last year of £567m, a rise of 8 per cent. The bank also announced that it has now lent £1,000m to new buyers and expects the total to rise to £1,500m this year.

Toxteth school 'unease'

The Prime Minister and the press have been criticized over their reaction to vandalism at St Saviour's primary school in Toxteth, Liverpool. The school's new headmaster reported an "uneasy and irrational atmosphere" in the school after it reopened. Community leaders later accused reporters of sensationalism. Page 3

Weapons found on hijack jet

A rifle and a dagger were found on the hijacked Air Tanzania jet at Stansted airport, Essex. The police are inquiring whether the weapons belonged to any of the passengers, whose return home was postponed for a day. Page 2

Schmidt defends his ministers

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, has publicly defended his top aide and two senior ministers under investigation in a bribery and tax evasion scandal. He has three and saw no reason to suspend them. Page 6

Reagan budget sure to fail

It is now certain that President Reagan's controversial 1983 budget will not be passed by Congress because of a palace revolt among Republicans who cannot accept the large deficit built into the President's proposals. Page 8

Threat of war in Lebanon

The Syrians have dug their tanks in advanced positions south of their line in Lebanon. The Israelis have started conducting night live-fire exercises and daily harassment of United Nations troops. Page 8

Trees moved for the Pope

Thirty-six trees are to be moved from Belleouston Park in Glasgow so that crowds who gather to see the Pope when he visits the city in June will have a better view.

Sponsorship for League Cup

The League Cup will be sponsored for the next four seasons by the National Dairy Council in a deal worth £2.5m. The name will be changed to the Milk Cup and a new trophy designed. Page 19

'Times' move

Compulsory notices to 210 clerical employees of The Times and The Sunday Times have been suspended for five days "to lend a more helpful atmosphere to the talks between the management and the workers' union. Page 2

Prosser trial

Council for the prosecution said that medical evidence would be given at the trial of three prison officers accused of murdering Mr Barry Prosser in Winslow Prison, that his death was likely to have been caused by two or three people. Page 3

Letters: On parents and Europa court ruling, from Mrs Valerie Riches, and others; TV by satellite, from Mr G. Johnson Smith, Mr and Mrs Paul Rice; Winifred threat, from Mr C. S. Green. Leading articles: South African cricket; Oil policy; and Bathgate. Features, pages 9, 10 National Service: the new debate; Britain's poor record in human rights; the problems of the gifted child. Fashion: Suzy Menkes studies skirts. Obituary, page 12: Sir Robert Scott; Professor J. M. Robson.

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Sport Minister attacks cricket tour as 'deception'

By John Witherow and Philip Webster in London, Trevor Fishlock in Delhi and Michael Hornsby in Johannesburg

The Government yesterday condemned as "a total deception" the decision by 12 England cricketers to play in South Africa, and expressed overseas threatened the future of international and even county cricket.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, issued a statement in which he said: "I view this visit with the greatest dismay. It has undone a tremendous amount of goodwill that had been built up in the cricketing world in the past decade or so. What particularly concerns me is the total secrecy in which this visit has been arranged. It has all the elements of deception by the players concerned."

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, let it be known that she was angry. She recognizes that the tour contravenes the spirit of the Gleneagles Agreement of 1977, discouraging sporting links with South Africa, and which the Government is pledged to uphold.

But, as she will make clear in the Commons today, when she is expected to be questioned about the tour, there is nothing the Government can do to prevent it taking place. Mrs Thatcher is particularly disturbed that, because of the clandestine manner in which the tour was planned, the Government had no opportunity to make its views known in advance and to attempt to dissuade the players from going.

She is likely to tell MPs that since Britain is a free country, nothing could or would be done to stop people embarking on a course over which the Government disapproved. Mrs Thatcher has shown no signs of disagreeing with Mr Macfarlane's description of the tour as "deception".

He said yesterday: "I feel there will be reverberations throughout the cricket world. I am surprised at the speed at which the tour was organized. I only heard about it at the weekend, and wish I had had the chance to speak to the players involved, and to remind them of the possible consequences of their actions."

For the players the most serious decision is likely to come from the Test and County Cricket Board. The executive committee meets on Thursday and is likely to make recommendations about the tour. The match features of the players involved in the South African matches.

Members of the board last night met Mr Macfarlane, and Mr Donald Carr, secretary of the TCCB, said he was concerned about a backlash by the West Indies, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which could isolate England and perhaps lead to repercussions in other sports.

Mr Peter Lush, for the TCCB, said last night that if this summer's tour by India and Pakistan is cancelled, and no replacement tourists could be found, county cricket would lose more than £1m. "That would be a terrible blow—one from which the game might never recover," he said. "The implications for cricket, not only in this country but around the world, are very serious, as

indeed they are for other sports as well." The Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in September, already under threat because of New Zealand's Rugby contacts with South Africa, is an obvious target for such disruption.

Meanwhile, a report issued yesterday by the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid said that Britain and the United States have most sporting contacts with South Africa. It reports that the South African Government is using the tour to attack the players for placing England's future in test cricket and in other sports in jeopardy, the only support for their actions came from a small group of right-wing Conservatives who tabled a Commons motion congratulating the players and stating they would bring enormous new wealth and pleasure to multi-racial crowds in South Africa.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, after unsuccessfully trying from the Opposition front bench to get an emergency Commons debate on the tour, said last night that the Government should call on the players to return. "Obviously the Government cannot exert force upon people and nobody is asking it to do what it has no right to, but the Government must make it clear that these are private individuals and are in no way officially speaking or playing for this country," he said. "The team were selling themselves for 'blood-covered krugers'."

The secrecy with which the tour was planned has embarrassed the Government and although it was known that occasional approaches have been made to England sportsmen, news of the tour was a surprise to Mrs Thatcher when it emerged over the weekend.

Saudi oil output down by 15%

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia's oil output last month was more than 15 per cent below the official production ceiling of 8.5 million barrels a day, reliable sources indicated yesterday as Britain prepared to cut its North Sea oil price for the second time in less than four weeks.

Industry sources said that liftings of oil from Saudi Arabia, the largest exporter in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, were down to little over 7 million barrels a day in February.

It is the second successive month that Saudi Arabian output has dropped below official projected production levels, and the industry is being estimated at about 7.5 million barrels a day.

The disclosure adds to the confusion in world oil markets. Saudi Arabia has been under increasing pressure from other Opec members to reduce production to try to halt the drop in crude oil prices. Prices of freely traded individual cargoes of oil on the spot market, a traditional barometer of world price trends, have fallen by about 15 per cent since the start of the year in the face of a supply estimated to be running at 2.5 million barrels a day in excess of demand.

The drop in Saudi Arabian production is not an official cut in production levels, which the kingdom's rulers have so far refused to make. It represents a decision by some of the partners in Aramco, the consortium of four United States oil companies which lifts nearly all Saudi Arabian output, to take less oil than they are entitled to.

The move will help to eliminate some of the world surplus, but oil companies say it will not be nearly enough to halt the downward pressure on prices. It will certainly not be enough to prevent another reduction in the price of North Sea oil.

The British National Oil Corporation, which trades about two-thirds of Britain's North Sea oil, is expected to tell its main customers today or tomorrow that it is preparing to reduce the price of oil from its present level of \$35 a barrel. The corporation is likely to offer a cut of \$2 and possibly more. The West's oil price was last reduced by \$1.50 in the second week of February.

The move is likely to lead to a slight further easing in petrol prices, although the large companies such as BP, Shell and Esso, whose refineries have been making heavy losses on petrol and other products — will be reluctant to pass on any price reductions to motorists. Petrol prices have fallen from more than £1.70 in a hole in the tank to an average of £1.49.

Each \$1 fall in oil prices results in a loss to the Government of between £250m and £300m a year in lost North Sea taxes, according to the Treasury.

The Indian authorities recall the warning the TCCB gave to England players last year, when they were warned that their careers with England could be in jeopardy if they played matches in South Africa, and assume it will be acted on.

Many Indians are also affronted that five of the tour party in India—Geoffrey Boycott, Graham Gooch, John Embury, John Lever and Derek Underwood—are among the 12 touring South Africa.

But the arrival of the players in South Africa was greeted as a major coup after 12 years of isolation from international cricket. South Africa has repeatedly been refused entry to the International Cricket Conference, the ruling body of world cricket, because of the government's racial policies. In a sportsman's country, this has been a grievous deprivation and one well worth the £40,000 that it is estimated each of the England players is receiving to help to reopen sporting contacts.

A one voice in the celebration was that of South African Council of Sport (SACOS), the predominantly black organization which supports the international sports boycott of South Africa. Leading article, page 11 John Woodcock, page 19



Moscow welcome: President Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, greeting with a smile and a comradely handshake General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's military leader, at Vnukovo airport.

Brezhnev says Russia has learnt from bitter lessons of Poland

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, March 1

President Brezhnev firmly endorsed martial law in Poland tonight, telling General Wojciech Jaruzelski, who had arrived here on a state visit this morning, that the Russians fully understood the "timely measures" he had taken.

At a state banquet, Mr Brezhnev said martial law was needed to cool passions and pull the country out of a protracted, excruciating crisis. He went on: "Had the Communists given way to the counter-revolution, had they yielded under the furious attacks by the enemies of socialism, the destinies of Poland, stability in Europe and the world at large would have been jeopardized."

Mr Brezhnev said the bitter lessons were something to learn from. It was not easy for Poland today, and "the waves of anarchy, chaos and terror" that had befallen the country. The imperious powers, especially the United States, were increasing pressure on Poland and in doing so were trampling law and morals underfoot.

But let no one hope that socialism will not defend itself," the Soviet leader declared. "It will, and with all resolution."

He hinted that the Russians would give no further economic aid to Poland but would develop new trade agreements made a month ago. And he

suggested that it was up to other Communist countries to help Poland out of its difficulties, for Poland and members of the Soviet trading bloc. Comecon had the political will to organize their economic relations on a solid basis.

In reply, General Jaruzelski thanked the Soviet leader warmly for his support, called the Soviet Union the "bulwark of progress" and suggested that Poland was generally within the Soviet sphere of influence by referring specifically to the Yalta and Potsdam agreements which determined the two countries' destinies.

General Jaruzelski had arrived here this morning to a pointedly effusive welcome on his first visit abroad since martial law was declared.

He heads a large state and party delegation which is expected over the next two days to brief the Russians on the political, economic and security situation in Poland while bearing of Moscow's concern that there should be no let-up in martial law until a return to orthodox party control can be guaranteed.

Wearing full military uniform and dark glasses, General Jaruzelski was greeted on arrival at Moscow airport by President Brezhnev, who walked stiffly across the tarmac and embraced the Polish leader with customary heavy hugs.

Other senior Soviet figures at the airport, who are all expected to join in the crucial talks, included Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister; Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister; Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Minister of Defence; Mr Yuri Andropov, the head of the KGB security police; and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, a rising figure in the Politburo who has been taken over some of the late Mr Suslov's functions.

The Polish delegation included Mr Jozef Cyrtek, the Foreign Minister, who was here a few weeks ago to discuss aid and party relations, and Mr Florian Siwicki, the Deputy Minister of Defence, said by Western analysts to be a key figure in the military Government.

The Russians will use this visit to coordinate their responses with Warsaw to Western sanctions, and to hear at first hand the military government's plans for restoring political and economic order in Poland.

Beneath the surface, however, differences are likely to emerge on the relaxation of martial law, which the Russians, for all their ideological reservations, want to see continue until the shattered Polish Communist Party has been purged of all liberals.

Glenn joins swing, page 6

How much would you pay to give a lost little girl a start in life?

Susie (that's not her real name) attends one of the special day care centres we run for children whose future is at risk. As little as £2 could help her.



She is 3½, the child of a broken marriage, with a violent father. When first she came to us, she was so lost and disturbed, she wouldn't speak and didn't even know how to play.

Now, she's beginning to talk and smile, she enjoys painting, and she's building up confidence in herself so that as she gets older, she may be able to relate properly to others.

Susie's tragic story is typical. Little children like her, defenceless, bewildered, products of our confused society are the ones most likely to end up delinquent, making a mess of their own lives, and their own children's lives in turn.

At Barnardo's, we run day care centres with trained and dedicated helpers for these children. And, of course, we run residential homes and schools for children—but we are always concerned to try and keep children and parents together. Our help has no limits, but our money does. Skilled help like this costs a lot—though in the end it can not only give Susie a start in life, but also save society a great deal in later years.

Dr Barnardo's

Oxford don who exposed 'sale' of places resigns

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Oxford don at the centre of the dispute over Wadham College's decision to "sell" two places to the children of an overseas benefactor has resigned because of being made to feel like a traitor.

Mr Peter Gwyn, who has a one-year research fellowship in history at Wadham, had earlier threatened to resign unless the college made public its agreement with Mr Lee Shau Kee, a Hongkong businessman, to accept two of his children as undergraduates, provided they satisfied the minimum matriculation requirements.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

EEC budget protest by MPs

The long-running argument between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers about the Strasbourg Assembly's powers to change the EEC budget erupted during a meeting of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee at the Commons yesterday when a Supplementary Estimate for £7.1m was under scrutiny (our Political Correspondent writes).

The payment represents a three-month truce of the money the British Government must provide to meet the extra £50m added by the European Parliament to the 1982 budget for food aid.

MPs claimed that under the Rome Treaty they had power to extend the budget. The Council of Ministers disputes that, and has referred the matter to the European Court for a ruling.

In the face of protests by MPs yesterday over the British Government's decision to pay out the extra money in advance of a judgment, Mrs M. E. Hedges-Miller, Under-Secretary of the EEC section of the Treasury, said there was no question of the Government paying more than was due. If the case the case the matter would be decided according to the court's decision.

The sum represents only about 0.5 per cent of the £11,500m covered by the Community's total budget.

Jockey settles out of court

Mr. Ernie Johnson, the jockey, yesterday settled out of court his legal dispute with the Newmarket racecourse authorities over an accident which put him out of racing for a season.

Mr Johnson had sued Newmarket Racecourse Trust over the accident in 1977 when his mount crushed his left leg against a stable gate. The Trust denies liability. Mr Johnson, aged 30, who alleged the gate was a hazard, said he lost earnings of £16,000 because of the accident.

Ford job scheme praised by MSC

The Manpower Services Commission yesterday urged large firms to follow Ford's example by running 12-month training courses for young people (Donald Macintyre writes).

Under Ford's scheme, publicly-funded, 250 young people are being paid the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) allowance of £25 a week to build go-karts, and earn basic machining, engine maintenance, catering and administration in three training workshops.

Mr Roger Dawe, special programmes division director, announced that more than 500,000 young people have entered YOP since last April.

£4,000 prize for festival design

A first prize of £4,000 is to be awarded to the designer of a competition to design an exhibition hall for the Liverpool International Garden Festival, to take place in 1984.

Plans for the festival were announced last year by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, after he was given special responsibility for the problems of Merseyside. The festival will run for six months on a site in the Liverpool South Docks.

Plessey appeal on sit-in

Plessey, the electronics firm, is to appeal against a court ruling on a five-week sit-in by workers at its Bathgate plant near Edinburgh. The appeal, on Thursday, could be a test case on whether a sit-in is lawful if the workers' action is "in furtherance of a trade dispute".

Lord Kerrigan ruled at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday that the 130 workers must have a defence under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974. This reversed a court order banning the sit-in, which is aimed at keeping the plant open.

3cwt bust stolen

Thieves have stolen a 3cwt bronze bust of Lord Huddlesford, the judge, from his grave in Bestwood Park, Nottingham. The bust, worth £400, was shortly to be moved to the Law Society's Museum in London.

Gun find delays passengers on hijack jet

By Michael Horswell

The return home of the Tanzanian hostages from Sonstad, Essex, was delayed for 24 hours yesterday as police continued intensive inquiries which uncovered a new arsenal of weapons on the hijacked Boeing 737.

Mr Peter Simpson, assistant chief constable of Essex, disclosed that a rifle and a shotgun and live ammunition had been discovered on the Air Tanzania aircraft. A dagger and a sheath knife were also found.

Police are trying to discover whether the weapons belonged to any of the passengers who are known to be relatives of the four gunmen from the Tanzanian Youth Revolutionary Movement.

Further inquiries together with consultations with the Director of Public Prosecutions may mean that charges will be filed against some of the relatives within the next 36 hours.

Meanwhile, the taking of statements from the passengers delayed the return of the aircraft to Tanzania until today. Police said 81 people were on the jet when it landed, including the hijackers and six crew.

While statements were being taken, including some from passengers who do not speak English, police maintained strict security which prevented journalists from asking innocent questions about what had happened during the hijack, and the aircraft's 26-hour stay on board the aircraft on the tarmac at Stansted.

A relief crew which arrived early yesterday was standing by to take the aircraft back.

The discovery of the weapons added a new dimension to police inquiries. When the hijackers surrendered on Sunday, they handed to children in their party a 0.38 revolver, two

wooden pistols and a mock hand grenade, together with a box marked explosives, which police say was harmless.

Mr Simpson said: "After legal advice from the DPP and our own advisors it would be most unwise at this stage, due to the formulation of charges, to allow any interviews with hostages. The probability is that the majority of the hostages will leave."

Mr Simpson said the victims were recovering quite well. "It was quite an ordeal for many of them. This weekend has taught us many lessons," he said. "The major lesson is that if we follow our guide lines we can achieve a peaceful solution to this kind of problem. Patience has been amply rewarded."

The condition of the co-pilot, who received a flesh wound shortly after the aircraft took off for its internal flight, is said to be comfortable.

As the hostages were escorted by police last night to a secret destination for their third night in Britain, Mr Charles Mwangi-Ata, an official of the Tanzanian High Commission in London, described the fear and the relief of passengers at their rescue.

He said that the handful of children who travelled on the aircraft were aged eight months upwards. The children were well looked after and most remained calm throughout the ordeal. "It was their parents who were shaken and frightened throughout their trip."

Fourteen of the passengers have been given visas to stay with relatives in Britain for a month, the Home Office said last night (Stewart Tiedler writes).

Many are Asians with families in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Kambona plea not to return terrorists

By David Cross

Mr Oscar Kambona, the exiled former Tanzanian Foreign Minister who played a key role in the Stansfield hijacking steps, yesterday urged the British Government not to return the four hijackers to Dar es Salaam.

"Although they must expect to face due process of law in Britain for the hijacking, they would at least get a fair trial, which is denied in Tanzania, by contrast, the rule of law did not prevail and they were unlikely to get justice."

In a statement issued from his home in north London, where he lives with his family, Mr Kambona said he was glad to learn that the British authorities were considering whether to allow the families of the hijackers to stay in Britain.

"The fact that they risked the lives of the wives and children by taking them with them on the aircraft shows that this was not a common act of piracy," he added.

Mr Kambona emphasized, however, that he was totally opposed to the return of the Air Tanzania aircraft which he described as an "unwarranted act".

He said that the British authorities should be aware that President Julius Nyerere's policy was to return the hijackers to Tanzania, but now he has made it clear that the promise of a fair trial in Britain was one of the main factors in persuading the hijackers to surrender.

Although he claimed that he had no foreknowledge of the hijacking or the Revolutionary Youth Movement to which they claimed allegiance, Mr

Kambona showed considerable understanding for their action. The hijackers were "driven by economic and political conditions in Tanzania to undertake what we might consider to be an act of madness," he said. The hijacking was to them "the only way open to draw world attention to the plight of our people, who have suffered at the hands of a cruel dictator for a long time."

Mr Kambona said that during a brief meeting on Sunday, the hijackers had explained what had prompted their "act of desperation". They had said that they wanted President Nyerere to resign and to give way to a democratically elected government.

The hijackers had also complained about the disappearance of President Nyerere's opponents after falling into the hands of his security agents.

In addition, the Tanzanian economy was in ruins and ordinary people suffered from shortages of essential food.

Mr Kambona said that it was because of his sympathy for his fellow Tanzanians that he had agreed to return the aircraft to the Foreign Office in London to interfere with the hijackers.

"Having done this and having helped in small measure to bring this unhappy episode to a peaceful solution I would like to appeal to the British Government not to return these men to Tanzania."

The Tanzanian High Commission in London said yesterday that the Tanzanian government was deciding whether to seek the extradition of the hijackers. The High Commission's priority was to ensure that the hijacked passengers returned home safely.

AIRLINE BID FOR LAKER US ROUTE

By Michael Bailey

Laker Airways' 25 per cent share of traffic between Britain and Los Angeles, worth about £20m, could be lost to Britain unless the Government moved fast in designating another British airline carrier.

Adam Thomson, chairman of the British Caledonian Airways said yesterday.

He described proposed hearings by the Civil Aviation Authority on Laker's "instantly formed" paper "line, Bren page Ltd", as a "charade" and in a letter to Sir Neville Foulkes, chairman of the CAA, called for a "quickie" procedure to let BCal on to the route in May.

The immediate response from the CAA was discouraging, however. In view of the competing applications from Bren page and BCal the CAA will carry out its statutory duties scrupulously and impartially, a spokesman said. It would be wrong to prejudge decisions that should only be arrived at after public hearings.

Total traffic on the Britain-Los Angeles route is believed to be over 600,000 passengers, worth nearly £150m a year, of which British Airways and Laker Airways each carry around 25 per cent, the remainder shared by US carriers.

British Caledonian could operate six flights a week with DC10 aircraft and want exemption from normal licensing for six months to let them start in May before the summer season. Mr Thomson said. After that they would give the route up if their application for a licence was turned down.

STATISTICS CUTS ATTACKED

By Pat Healy

The Government was accused yesterday of threatening democratic debate in Britain by drastically reducing the collection of economic and social statistics. The charge was made by the Council of Civil Service Unions, which is campaigning to reverse cuts intended to save up to £25m and 2,500 jobs by 1984.

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The overall effect will be that the statistics and democratic debate will no longer be offered or published. Mr Campbell Christie, deputy general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said yesterday.

Examples of the damage already apparent from the cuts were offered at a press conference yesterday. They included the abandoning by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of a development aimed at informing British farmers each year of the impact of the common agricultural policy before final decisions were taken.



Wind of change: Members of the London Symphony Orchestra wind ensemble playing on the floor of the Stock Exchange in London yesterday to publicize the opening by the Queen tomorrow of the Barbican Centre for the Arts.

Dorset jail rate criticized

By Frances Gibb

Dorset county magistrates are castigated for a rate of prison sentencing which is 50 per cent higher than the national average in a survey on imprisonment rates in magistrates' courts published today.

The report, by the Bristol group of Radical Alternatives to Prison, says the Dorset rate imprisoned 11.45 per cent of all male adults found guilty of indictable offences in 1980 compared with a national average for England and Wales of 8.45 per cent and a lowest rate of 6.2 per cent in Gwent.

"For every one man sent to prison in Gwent, in other words, the Dorset magistrates sent four," the report says.

What this means is that during 1980 the Dorset bench contributed to prison overcrowding at a rate four times greater than their colleagues in Gwent.

In 1980, magistrates in England and Wales sent 13,741 men to prison. If they had all sentenced at the Dorset rate, the figure would have risen to 20,246, which "would have pushed hard-pressed local prisons up and down the

country beyond the point of collapse."

By contrast, it says, the Gwent rate spread nationwide would have meant only 5,203 committed to prison. That "would have gone a long way towards relieving some of the chronic pressures on 'dustbin' local establishments."

Within the overall imprisonment rate for Dorset the report says there is concealed another set of even greater injustices. The figures for Weymouth are almost twice the county average, almost four times the rate for the rural parts of Dorset and six times higher than in Gwent.

This is the third consecutive year in which the Dorset bench has headed the group's annual league table of rates of imprisonment and the fourth time in five years.

Second in the table is Lancashire, with a sentencing rate for male offenders of 11.81 per cent; then Cleveland, 11.43 per cent, then Sussex, 10.93.

The report adds that there are two redeeming features in the criminal statistics for 1980;

that the national percentage of men imprisoned by magistrates has fallen for the first time in five years from 8.5 per cent in 1979 to 8.45 per cent; and that some benches are lessening their use of imprisonment.

Suffolk, which came sixth in the 1979 table with an 11 per cent imprisonment rate, now comes 21st with the exact national average of 8.45 per cent. Gloucestershire, too, which once regularly headed the league, has dropped from first place in 1977 to 26th in 1980.

The group has written to Mr. Bow examining the Criminal Justice Bill in committee urging amendments to the Bill which would bring about further reductions in the use of imprisonment. These include publishing official league tables of rates of imprisonment and setting up an Inspector of Courts in the Lord Chancellor's Department.

A second, within a second, is the fact that the rate of imprisonment in Dorset is 11.45 per cent, compared with 8.45 per cent in Gwent, 6.2 per cent in Dorset, 11.43 per cent in Sussex, 10.93.

Ben Nevis sees off the BBC

By Ronald Faux

The BBC repeated yesterday from the North face of Ben Nevis, storm-battered and wise about the savage unpredictability of Scottish weather.

A group of 10 volunteers for the programme that hoped to present the first live coverage of an ice climb on a cliff in Arctic conditions, was evacuated from the 4,000ft summit of the mountain after spending three nights there in freezing cold and 125 mph winds.

Mr Michael Begg, in charge of the production, said: "It would have been foolish to spend any longer there. The risk of exposure would have been too great. Only the top two inches of their tent pole was showing above the snow this morning."

Two pairs of climbers were to have been televised live climbing 1,000ft long routes on the North face, which has been the scene of a number of fatal accidents recently.

"We were within an ace of everything working splendidly for the first outside broadcast in the world from such a position and then on Friday the weather changed," Mr Begg said.

On Saturday the technological triumph resulted in the coldest interview for some time. It was on the summit of Ben Nevis as freezing mist blasted around the figures of a Royal Marine digging a hole in the snow and an interviewer who so far forgot himself as to ask cheerfully how life was treating him in the Army.

That faux pas was plucked from his lips, shot down the mountain to a control van, projected to a satellite station through space off West Africa, bounced back to Goolbilly in Cornwall and from there fed into the television network.

The BBC yesterday denied that the folly on the North Face had cost £150,000 even though it had involved the hire of two helicopters, about 80 technicians and climbing specialists, and a band of local Sherpas to help ferry equipment into position.

Neither was everything a total loss. A French skier descending the North Face four days ago in practice for the "live" attempt at the weekend had been filmed. On top of that there was enough material of the BBC preparing to televise the ice climb that never happened to make "a very interesting documentary".

Times management extends notices

By Donald Macintyre and Hugh Noyes

Management at The Times and The Sunday Times yesterday agreed to suspend for five days the compulsory notices to 210 clerical employees to allow negotiations with their union representatives to continue.

The concession means that the notices will now be due to run out five days later than originally planned. In the case of the first notices, which had been due to run out in a week's time, expiry would now be midnight, March 14.

Management are not now expected to announce before tomorrow the numbers of staff who responded to Mr Rupert Murdoch's fresh call for applicants for voluntary redundancy under the company scheme. Mr Murdoch has made it clear that if enough acceptable applicants come forward, the compulsory notices will be withdrawn.

Mr Arthur Britten, corporate relations director of News International, said last night that the decision to suspend the notices for a limited period had been "a gesture to lend a more helpful atmosphere to the talks."

Earlier in the week announced three weeks ago that he wanted a reduction of 600 full-time jobs. The company has also been seeking a reduction of up to 900 part-time shifts.

Earlier in the week Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said that if The Times was to continue as a major journalistic force, it would have to do so on an economic basis. Both sides of the House would wish the news paper to continue, he added, but he did not agree with a Labour MP who suggested that events since Mr Murdoch took over seemed to justify some of the fears expressed at that time.

Mr Biffen, who was answering a question from Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Haringey, Tottenham, about infringement of editorial independence at The Sunday Times, said that it was for the independent national directors to consider allegations that editorial independence had been infringed.

Mr Atkinson then asked Mr Biffen to agree, in connection with the company's articles of association and the newspaper's titles, that Mr Murdoch had tried to find a way around the original agreement and that he got caught. If Mr Biffen had his time over again would he not have designed the articles very differently from those now standing and

would he have attempted to take a different action in not referring the matter to the Monopolies Commission for inquiry, Mr Atkinson asked.

Mr Biffen replied that he would not have designed the articles in a different way, nor would he have departed from his decision over a reference to the commission.

From the Tory benches Mr Jonathan Aitken, (Thames, East), felt that there was something of an element of make-believe surrounding these so-called guarantees of editorial independence. In practical terms they were unenforceable, he said. It would be more realistic if Mr Biffen accepted that Times Newspapers Ltd had a proprietor who from time to time might decide to fire an editor, or to encourage his subordinates, and that there was nothing the Government could do about it.

Mr Biffen did not agree that the company's articles had become something of a make-believe. He suggested that the question was whether or not he was answering concerned the dismissal of journalists and not the dismissal of an editor. If the editor of The Sunday Times had thought that his independence had been infringed, he could have appealed to the independent national directors.

Mr John Smith, opposition trade spokesman, asked if Mr Biffen thought that Murdoch was not acting within the spirit of the agreement in attempting to transfer the titles without any reference whatsoever to the independent national directors. What decision, he asked, had been arrived at on the future of the titles and did not the Secretary of State think that further safeguards were necessary in the light of recent experience?

Mr Biffen declined to answer on the transfer of titles because there was a later question on this matter. The question was not, in fact, reached by the end of question time.

From the Labour benches Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North), wanted to know what the Government's attitude would be if The Times was closed down. Would the Government try to ensure that it appeared again in the near future? It was to that question that Mr Biffen replied that closure would not be wished by anyone in the House, but that continued production must be on an economic basis.

Rail roster issue for tribunal as talks fail

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

Lord McCarthy's arbitration tribunal will have to pass final judgment on the controversial issue of flexible rostering on the railways after negotiations broke down yesterday between British Rail and its three unions.

BR insisted that new rostering systems should include the elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day for train drivers, which has existed since 1915 but the footplate union objected and opted to go to the tribunal.

The tribunal will hear evidence by March 19 at the latest on the rostering dispute, which was the cause of the six weeks of strikes by members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF).

The tribunal results will not be binding. Mr Raymond Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, said he had been supported in his request that the findings not be binding by the National Union of Railwaymen.

However, Mr Russell Tuck, senior assistant general secretary of the NUR, said it was obvious the findings could not be binding as all parties could not agree.

As the meeting between BR and the unions started about 3.30 ASLEF and NUR members from the King's Cross terminal in London stormed British Rail's headquarters at Euston. During the mêlée, involving the demonstrators, a BR security staff, a receptionist was hurt.

Mr Buckton said after the 60-minute meeting that as far as his members were concerned elimination of the eight-hour day was a "very great basic principle" to which they were opposed. He was prepared to negotiate with BR on proposals to introduce flexibility around the eight-hour day.

During the negotiations yesterday British Rail asked for the hearing at Lord McCarthy's Railway Staffs National Tribunal to be binding, and Mr Buckton, when asked reasons for not agreeing to the findings being binding, said: "It is my business, not yours."

M15 link in Iran plot case denied

A senior officer of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad yesterday dismissed claims that M15 was behind the kidnapping of three Iranian diplomats in a plot to defraud the Iranian Government in a £26m bogus arms deal.

Detective Chief Inspector Derek Todd was replying to new objections to bail the case of Benjamin Nodjourni, a wealthy Iranian company director and a former member of Savak, the Shah's secret police, who was charged in connection with the alleged kidnapping.

At the hearing at Mylebone Magistrates' Court it has been alleged the plot was to supply the Iranians with 30 crates of tin instead of the 3,000 crates of tin needed for which the diplomats were negotiating, for use in their war against Iraq.

Mr Todd told Mr Brian Canham, the magistrate, that Mr Nodjourni had claimed in open court that the whole matter had been set up by British intelligence through an army major called Ross.

Witnesses had now identified the "so-called Major Ross" who had since been arrested and charged and who turned out to be an impostor. "There is no suggestion whatsoever that British intelligence had been involved, and yet by what Mr Nodjourni said, serious embarrassment could have been caused to the British Government," Mr Todd said.

But despite the police objections, Mr Nodjourni, aged 36, of the Waters Gardens, Burwood, London, was further remanded until March 29 on bail totalling £105,000 with stringent passport and other conditions after an application by Mr Richard Du Cann, QC, for counsel.

Mr Nodjourni, said to be a member of the Iranian Freedom Movement, which aims to topple Ayatollah Khomeini, is charged with plotting between 1979 and 1980 with Mr Spiridon Kocov, an American, and Herr Kurt Klinker, a German, to defraud Iran's Minister of Defence out of \$52,000,000.

On the same charge are also charged a Cypriot restaurateur, aged 33, of Watford Road, Bromley Road, Catford; Leslie Pitts, a company director, aged 45, of Herne Hill, south-east London; and Silem Moser, a Swiss-born engineer, aged 47, of Wynch House, King's Road, Chelsea.

Mr Arif, Mr Nodjourni and four Britons are further charged with assaulting Mr Abolhassem Behzadi, and Mr Mahmoud Sabahati, both Iranian diplomats, and Mr Hassem Moghadam, a banker. They are also said to have unlawfully and injuriously imprisoned them against their will at Mr Nodjourni's and another Water Garden for six days to last October 16.

Mr Arif was remanded in custody for eight days. The six others were granted bail totalling £44,000 to appear at Mr Nodjourni on March 29.

The four accused Britons are Richard Page, accountant, aged 45, of Derrym Way, Kenton, Middlesex; Peter Dean, a chauffeur, aged 40, of Queen Mary Road, Upper Norwood and Ronald White, aged 45 and unemployed of Toland Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, and his brother William White, a stable worker, aged 43, of Ashbury Road, Morden, Surrey.

Science report A flaring star reveals a secret of the Sun

By the Staff of "Nature"

A remarkable exercise in international collaboration between astronomical observatories seems conclusively to have shown that flares like those seen on the surface of the Sun also occur on other stars.

The conclusion is important, chiefly because it helps to place the Sun itself among the class of stars long known to exhibit sharp outbursts of activity, but the organisational feat of coordinating seven optical and seven radio telescopes with observations made from the Einstein X-ray satellite will be a landmark in observational astronomy.

The star on which flares resembling those on the Sun have now been identified is known as YZ Canis Minoris, known to be a dwarf star which nevertheless has a mass which is a substantial fraction of that of the Sun.

The 14-ground-based telescopes and the Einstein satellite were all pointed at the star for periods of five hours on each of three consecutive days, October 25-27—in 1979.

The flare whose characteristics most closely resemble those of a solar flare seems to have occurred early during the first observation period.

The flare concerned seems to have lasted for a little less than 10 minutes. The outburst on the star was recorded by the X-ray detectors on the Einstein satellite, by the optical telescopes in the United States at the Cloudcroft and McGraw-Hill observatories and by a radio-interferometer at Jodrell Bank.

As with flares on the surface of the Sun, the outburst of visible energy from YZ Canis Minoris seems to have risen very rapidly to its peak but then to have decayed more slowly over the succeeding 10 minutes. The X-ray emission characteristically lagged behind but put out from the star in the optical region, while the burst of radio energy lagged behind the visible flare by a full 17 minutes.

The 31 authors of the research including Sir Bernard Lovell, say that these characteristics resemble those of the more familiar (because more easily observed) flares on the surface of the Sun. From their estimate of the energy put out during the outburst, they calculate that temperature of the flare must have reached a maximum of 20 million degrees, comparable with the temperature reached at the peak of solar flares and sufficient to account for the generation of X-rays in detectable amounts.

While the new observations show that flares like those on the Sun occur on other stars, in themselves they do not lead to a resolution of the continuing uncertainty about the origins of these spectacular phenomena, as a result of which jumps of glowing material may be the source for tens of millions of miles for tens of millions of miles.

Source: *Astrophysical Journal*, vol 252, p 239 January 1, 1982. © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

NEAR-BLIND DRIVER SPARED JAIL

Frederick Fisher, a father of five, was yesterday granted unconditional bail by magistrates at York so that he could spend the last few weeks of his sighted life in freedom with his family.

The magistrates were told that Fisher, a former lorry driver, aged 32, of Middleham Avenue, York, who admitted 26 motoring offences, theft and fraud, suffered from an incurable eye disease.

Mr Trevor Cox, for Fisher, asked the magistrates to spare him from living with his fading eyesight "in the gloom of a prison cell."

Mr Cox told the bench: "In a few weeks Fisher will be completely blind. It will be wrong to deprive this man of his liberty now when his eyesight is failing so rapidly."

Mr Cox told the court how Fisher committed the offences, including driving while disqualified, and described him as a man obsessed by motor vehicles.

The magistrates adjourned sentence on 12 of the offences and committed Fisher to crown court for sentence on the other 14.

CORRECTION

A report on February 25, "Intimidation row at Times Newspapers" stated incorrectly that a branch of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (NSOPGM) had said that one member, Miss Mary Fokary, "should be branched or disciplined" after public challenging union policy on redundancy notices.

The report should have attributed the statement to a National Society official, who has categorically denied that Miss Fokary, a secretary at Times Books, is facing any disciplinary action.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$6.25; Bahrain \$5.00; Canada \$5.50; Denmark 12.50; France 7.00; Germany 12.50; Hong Kong 12.50; India 12.50; Italy 12.50; Japan 12.50; Korea 12.50; Malaysia 12.50; Mexico 12.50; New Zealand 12.50; Norway 12.50; Portugal 12.50; Singapore 12.50; South Africa 12.50; Sweden 12.50; Switzerland 12.50; Taiwan 12.50; Thailand 12.50; United Kingdom 12.50; USA 12.50.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script.

Jail death jury told of wall of silence

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

Medical evidence on the death of Mr Barry Prosser in Winson Green prison, Birmingham, would suggest that it was probably the work of two or three people, Mr Douglas Draycott, QC, said yesterday opening the Crown case against three prison officers at Leicester Crown Court.

Mr Draycott told the jury: "Around the walls of Winson Green has grown up another wall—a wall of silence. You will have to make the best you can of the evidence that is put before you."

The accused men, appearing on a bill of indictment pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Prosser. They are: Melvin Jackson, aged 32, Eric Smith, aged 32, and Howard Price, aged 25, who worked in the hospital administration wing at the prison.

Mr Prosser, of Sedgley, West Midlands, was a self-employed carpenter, married with two children. He suffered from mental illness, said from 1970 onwards received periodic hospital treatment. In March, 1979, he was put on probation for three years at Dudley for causing criminal damage, and he received psychiatric treatment as an in-patient for three months.

Mr Draycott said: "He appears to have been a very nice person, friendly, and a good workman. Physically, he was perfectly well, but from time to time his mental condition of hypomania came to the surface. Hypomania was a condition of over-activity, over-activity, a general sense of well-being, extreme cheerfulness at one time yet very low at another."

Mr Prosser was a 6ft 3in 14½ stone man and Mr Draycott said he got himself into trouble from time to time. He enjoyed a pint of beer, but an excessive amount of drink had an adverse effect on him at a time when he was taking sedative drug for his condition.

His violence was not directed at people but at things.

In August, 1980, he was going through one of his difficult periods and his wife took the two children to her father's home near by. At 11 o'clock one night, Mr Prosser went there and started

hanging and shouting and was arrested and later remanded to prison, where he was put in a cell with other prisoners. There was a disturbance on August 12 and he was moved to a "stripped" cell in the hospital wing.

On August 18, when he received the injuries from which he died, he was banging, singing, shouting and creating a lot of noise.

The jury at that point was shown a series of photographs and Mr Draycott said the cause of death was by a heavy weight dropping on to the upper abdomen which burst the stomach and oesophagus. Mr Prosser had been lying on his back and the Crown suggested that a heavy man had dropped on his knees with the whole of his weight on to Mr Prosser. There were other injuries delivered with as much force.

Mr Draycott continued: "If it is going to be suggested that this was suicide by Mr Prosser, or that for some reason he had inflicted these injuries on himself, our expert evidence is that the number of these injuries could not have been self-inflicted."

Mr Draycott said that the only three officers on duty who could have done this to Mr Prosser were the three accused. It was fair to say that there was no intention to kill him. "It may well be, and probably is, that they went further than they intended to."

Mr Prosser had been beaten up. He was not unintelligent and it was likely he would complain during the governor's rounds. "We say that fairly quickly a cover up was started, the first step being to make and entry in the hospital records. It had been noted 'This man has gone completely berserk, shouting and screaming and banging... very, very disturbed... hallucinating plus. He has been acting this way for three hours.' Another notation read: 'Persistent screaming and shouting from 5 pm to 8 pm, hyperactive and unpredictable.'"

The hearing continues today and later this week the jury will enter the prison to see Prosser's cell.

Heseltine seeks more building by councils

From Ronald Kershaw, Wakefield

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that local authorities should provide work through capital construction programmes in the coming financial year. Local authorities had under-spent by some £400m, on housing this year, and the problem was getting them to spend it effectively and quickly, he said.

Mr Heseltine had been attending a regional seminar on the rate support grant at Wakefield town hall. Fressed on under-spending, he said: "The best indications I have so far, are that something like £400m in housing capital receipts are likely to be under-spent in the current year, and perhaps another £300m of other capital receipts."

"This partially reflects the success of the sale of council houses and partially the determination of local authorities to look at assets they have been sitting on without cashing them, and getting the cash they can use." Councils were now doing this on a bigger scale, but they had not anticipated their own success.

The cash, he said, was within the Government's public expenditure programme. Asked if it had to be spent this year he said: "They can carry it forward at individual authority levels; I have to be concerned it doesn't prejudice the overall national cash limits next year."

Mr Heseltine added: "In the forthcoming year, we are likely to see significant levels of capital receipts work off and I very much hope local authorities will use the freedom they have got in order to provide work in capital construction programmes."

County seeks legal advice on rate rise

The Labour-controlled Merseyside County Council is to seek legal opinion on the levels of permissible expenditure before fixing the rate for this coming year. (Our Liverpool Correspondent writes.)

The budget meeting of the policy committee was unexpectedly adjourned after an hour yesterday to enable that course to be adopted, despite strong objections from Conservative and Liberal councillors.



Daffodils for Dylan Thomas: Watched by Mrs Thomas-Ellis, the grandchildren lay a tribute

A big day for Dylan and St David

By Tony Samstag

Dylan Thomas may have been dead and buried for the better part of 30 years, but the old reprobate can still draw the crowds. They packed Westminster Abbey in their hundreds yesterday, St David's Day, for an event as improbable as it had been long awaited: the unveiling and dedication of a memorial plaque in Poets' Corner to the patron saint of dissolution himself.

There it lay in all its newly chiselled splendour, three hundredweight of Penryn green slate flanked by Lord Byron and George Eliot, with Henry James and Gerard Manley Hopkins near neighbours. Mrs Aeronwy Thomas-Ellis, the poet's daughter, who lives in Surrey now, commended the memorial stone into the safe custody of the abbey as flashbulbs popped, television cameras jockeyed for

position, and a distinctly secular air of unease crept over the proceedings.

The scriptures are fairly explicit about the likely consequences of pursuing commercial activities in the temple of God. Media events, perhaps, are less clearcut. The bard himself, it is fairly safe to assume, would have burned and raved, less at the incongruity of the proceedings than at the stifling respectability of it all.

Wreaths and banks of daffodils were laid on and around the plaque, and many of the worshippers wore single blooms in their lapels.

Perhaps 30 members of the Thomas clan were among the congregation: "We had to go out and find them," Mrs Thomas-Ellis said. Her son, Hugh, aged

seven, and another grandchild, Jemima Thomas, aged 15, were present at the unveiling; Hannah Thomas-Ellis, aged three, suffered an acute attack of stage fright at the last minute and cried off.

When discussing the master, words fail us ordinary mortals and we tend to resort to the sacred text or to name-dropping. Chaucer, Blake and Yeats reared their venerable heads, but it was the readings, of Fern Hill and Poem in October, that carried the day.

The Rev. Alan Luff, however, Precentor and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, may have spoken more appropriately than he knew when he read from the Book of Revelation on the "bitter-sweet calling of one who is to see strange visions and to write them down for his people".

Testing time for Welsh TV channel

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Amid a blaze of daffodils and a bucketful of optimism the Welsh-language Channel Four television was officially baptised in Cardiff yesterday.

A highly professional launch offered an exciting glimpse of what the channel will offer. Criticism that the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority has powers of patronage "as great as the Medicis and Borgias" was brushed aside.

Conceived from idealism and born from political duplicity the channel will put to the test the claim that on its shoulders rests the future of the declining Welsh language.

After promising the service in its manifesto the Government changed its mind only to think again in the face of a campaign of widespread civil disobedience when thousands of people said they would not pay their television licence fees.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Secretary of State for Wales, was ambushed while driving to his home in Pembroke-shire in England. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said that intimidation would never win the day after his constituency offices had been occupied by Welsh language protesters.

But in the end, faced with the threat of a fast to death by Mr Gwynfor Evans, former president of Plaid Cymru, the Government conceded its promise, admitting that it could not carry with it the weight of public opinion.

Mr Rhodri Williams, a former chairman of the Welsh Language Society, who was present at the launch yesterday, said he was impressed by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the people who will be responsible for the new service, which will begin transmission in November.

Mr Owen Edwards, director of the new authority, which will be known as S4C. (Sianel Pedwar Cymru) said: "We believe that the new channel will help to end the division of languages and communities in Wales."

"It is a channel for Wales in all senses."

Ultimately the viewers will decide whether the service succeeds for the government, still smarting over its first demonstrable U-turn, has estimated that if it does not succeed within three years it will be scrapped.

Violence in schools: 1

Disruptive pupils in a minority

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Incidents like those leading to the recent closure of the Toxteth primary school, which hit the headlines, tend to give a false impression of the scale of violence in our schools.

The most recent national survey of school discipline was that carried out by the HM Inspector for Schools (HMI) and included in their report on secondary schools two years ago.

That indicated that hostility to teachers was the "least of the schools' worries". Only seven of the 384 included in the survey described it as a serious problem. Violence between pupils was thought to be serious in only one school, and a "considerable worry" in seven.

The majority reported, somewhat surprisingly, that they had no disruptive pupils at all. Just over a third admitted they had some, but

only one in three of those put their number at ten or more. Vandalism was said to be a serious problem in only 4 per cent of schools.

The findings helped to confirm the Schools Inspectors' own view that the very great majority of schools were orderly, hard-working and free from any serious problems. And the indications are that, if anything, the situation has improved since then.

The relatively small amount of violence that does go on is not negligible, however. Figures compiled by the teachers' unions suggest that they are assaulted by pupils at a rate of about three a week. The most recent estimate of vandalism in schools, by the Government's "think tank", in 1979, put the cost at around £15m a year.

Nearly 2,000 schools were

the victims of suspected arson in 1979, the latest year for which figures are available, though it is not known how many of those were started by pupils.

Many teachers argue that they need the ultimate sanction of corporal punishment as a means of controlling violence in schools. However, research evidence suggests that such punishment might actually increase vandalism and other forms of delinquency, though no causal connection has been demonstrated between the two.

A study of corporal punishment in 12 secondary schools, published by the Scottish Council for Research in Education last November, found no detectable differences in the general standards of behaviour in any school where corporal punishment had been abolished, and those in compar-

able schools where it was still used.

The notable differences in standards were between teachers within a school, irrespective of whether corporal punishment was used, the research team said. The schools which had recently abolished corporal punishment seemed to benefit from having had to rethink their whole disciplinary systems.

Those opposed to corporal punishment point out not only that Britain is the only country in eastern or western Europe where it is still sanctioned — the Irish Republic abolished it last month — but that it has been in all British institutions other than schools, including borstals, detention centres, prisons and the armed forces, in some of which discipline might be thought harder to maintain.

'Uneasy' peace as St Saviour's returns

From John Chartres, Liverpool

There was an "uneasy and irrational atmosphere" at St Saviour's Church of England school in Toxteth, Liverpool, yesterday, Mr Arnold Cowman, the acting head teacher said at the end of his first day there. It was an atmosphere which probably only a professional teacher would understand, he added.

All but seven of the 110 five to 11 year olds pupils were in school on time yesterday as St Saviour's reopened after an extended two-week half-term following disturbances.

Mr Cowman said that at one stage in the day a number of empty beer cans had been thrown into the playground by people outside. The children, Mr Cowman said, had "made sport" with the cans.

He said he was looking forward to meeting parents later in the evening and saw the future of the school as a cooperative task between himself, teachers, parents and pupils.

He had spent his first day trying to get to know his pupils and to speak to them personally when possible "in a gentle sort of way". He said he had made himself "evident" but not in any systematic manner.

Complaints against cameras were again made by men claiming to be members of the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee, when the school closed and pupils left. Earlier Mr Kenneth An-



Mr Cowman: Getting to know his pupils.

cliffe, Liverpool's director of education, had disagreed with the Prime Minister over her apparent allocation of blame onto parents for the recent disturbances at the school.

At a morning news conference he said that his reading of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's comments was that she was placing all the blame on a lack of parental control.

After declaring that there would be no "witch hunts" or expulsions, but a "clean slate", Mr Antcliffe said it would be unproductive and would do no good to try to weigh out little parcels of blame. His own authority, the school governors, the staff, and the parents all shared in

blame; but the constructive thing to do was to make a fresh start.

He suggested that the Prime Minister's advisers might have been mistaken in the information they supplied her with before her references to the school in the House last Tuesday.

Mr Cowman greeted pupils yesterday and set about imposing what was described by Mr Anthony Smith, chief inspector of schools on Merseyside, as "discipline without a witch hunt". A ten point plan was announced for the school's future.

The only outward incidents occurred when a party of five men approached photographers outside the school. Two photographers handed over rolls of unprocessed film and a radio reporter surrendered a tape recording.

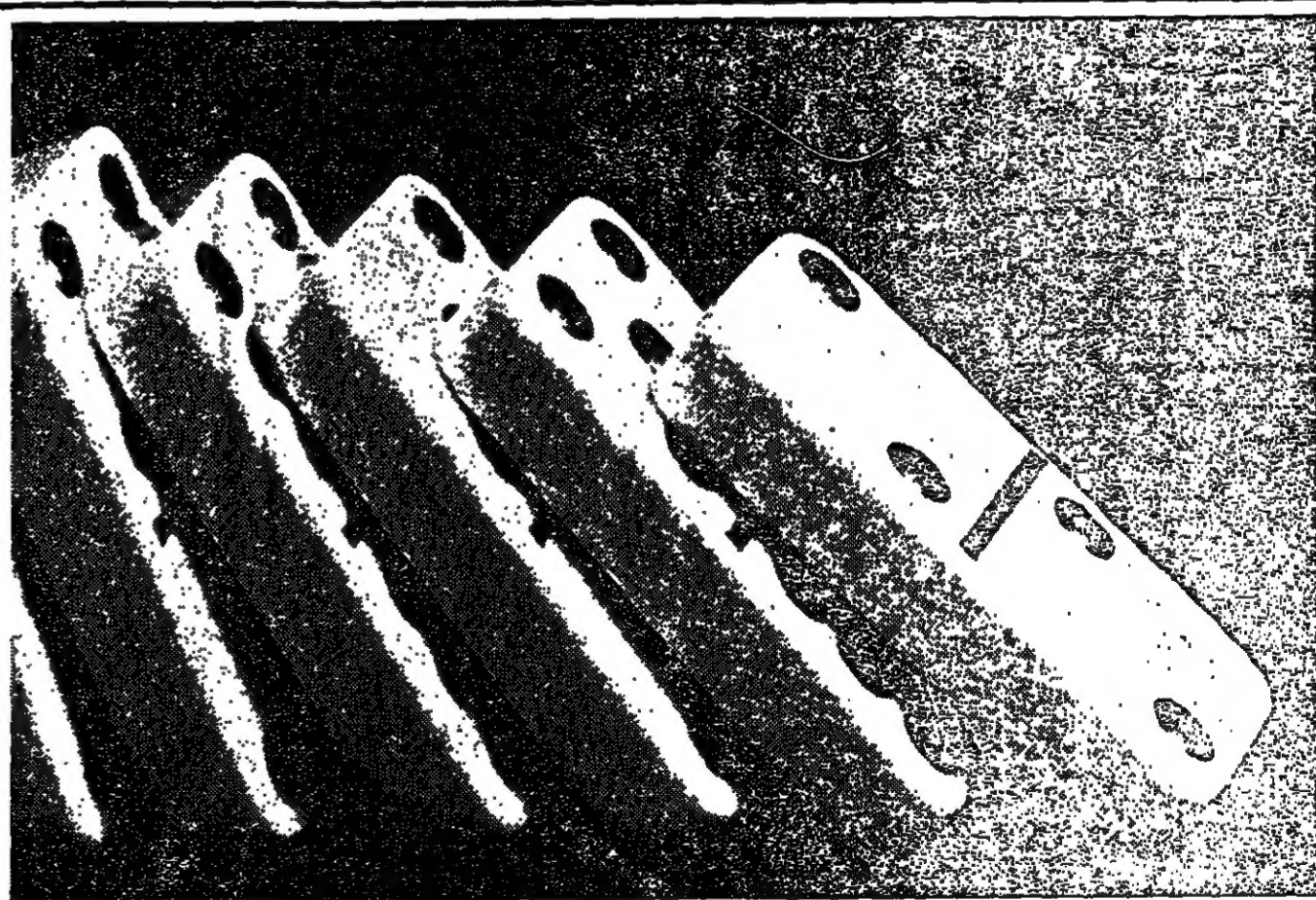
Journalists who had been invited to a press conference at 9am were asked to move into the building several minutes earlier and at its conclusion an official of Liverpool city's public relations department asked them to drive away as quickly as possible otherwise he could not answer for possible consequences.

Uniformed members of Liverpool education authority's security department were on duty outside the school railings and Mr Antcliffe said they would be there for as long as it was necessary to ensure the children's safety. Mr Leonard Tyrer, a Liver-

pool city councillor and chairman of the school board of governors, said accounts of damage to the buildings and teachers' cars, threats to staff and protection rackets alleged to have been operated by older children against the younger, had "been blown up out of all proportion". He had leaked the story "wanted his backside kicking".

The Rev Neville Black, one of the governors, disclosed that a four-hour meeting had taken place on the Thursday before news of the school's problems was first published, and that a strategy for dealing with those issues had been agreed. Mr Black suggested that the cost of damage to property only amounted to about £200.

The ten-point plan announced yesterday includes staff reinforcement, including three extra teachers from the city's reserve pool who were on duty yesterday. Extra supplies of books and stationery, valued at about £1,000, the availability of specialists and remedial teachers as a back-up, and the "enrichment" of the education at St Saviour's, which will include multi-cultural teaching. A scheme to help "latch-key" children in Toxteth has been dropped because of council cutbacks (Our Liverpool Correspondent writes). A disused school, earmarked for the "open house" project is to be sold because of severe financial restraints, Sir Trevor Jones, Liverpool council leader said yesterday.



WILL BRITAIN FALL FOR THE LINE THAT INSTABILITY IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULDN'T AFFECT THE WEST?

South Africa is fully committed to a policy of stability, private enterprise and prosperity for all.

Naturally, this doesn't suit the plans of many Marxists.

They know that Britain and the West are heavily dependent on South Africa for important minerals like chrome, manganese, vanadium and platinum. They know these

materials are essential for making computers, machine tools, jet engines, gearboxes, TVs, drilling bits and defensive armaments. And they know there are no major alternative sources outside the communist bloc.

South Africa's enemies are confident that by creating instability in the Republic, they can cause disruption in the West.

Further information can be obtained from The Director of Information, South African Embassy, South Africa House, London WC2N 5DP.

Aid s stran

AIR TRAVEL

Government officials have been instructed to review the needs of air travellers to see if there was any practicable way in which financial protection could be given to scheduled travellers, Mr Iain Sproat, Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr Robert McCrindle, of Wood and Oggar, C) has asked whether there were proposals to extend protection to travellers other than to package tours in the event of the failure of the airline.

Mr Sproat: I have no intention of introducing legislation on this subject and it is difficult involving an international treaty. However, I have no intention of reviewing the position.

Mr McCrindle: Will he be able to assure those matters the officials might consider the possibility of a small levy on scheduled airline tickets to create a fund to be created by our people who go abroad to be within their ambit account of the possible foreign airlines followed where a ticket was purchased in the United Kingdom?

Mr Sproat: I assure him that the points are ones which certainly be covered in review.

Mr John Fraser, an O spokesman on trade, said the matter is not all that difficult to be possible to introduce bonding scheme along with the one operated by present. Has the possibility of television of Tiny Rowland he would meet the cost of the Laker air been met?

BA debts nearing £1,000m

TRADE

British Airways was expected to make a further submission on the current financial year's debts were fast approaching £1,000m, Mr Iain Sproat, Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions.

Mr Michael Numbert of H. Romford, C) who asked a statement on measures taken by British Airways to improve its financial position was told by Mr Sproat that British Airways made a loss of £141m last year, clearly the management's responsibility to take measures to improve the financial performance as quickly as possible.


I welcome the determination of the Board (he said) each measure.

Mr Numbert: In the interest of fair competition in civil aviation would he confirm that British Airways's rejection suggestion that it is subsidised has received a wide range of support from the taxpayer in the years?

If British Airways had been a nationalised airline had been in the private sector would have been bankrupted ago.

Mr Sproat: He has put it but some might say, as for the support given to the taxpayer, it is right to say there has been massive support from the taxpayer to Airways from the National Fuel from public dividend capital from which it has £10m a year injected over five years and never repaid dividend, private sector guaranteed by the Treasury preferential interest rate exchange cover scheme has at no cost to them in operation for nine years, some £16m has been written off. There Concorde support provided by the Government many other points.

Mr John Smith, Chief O spokesman on trade (Lanarkshire, Lab): Would



Benn aide wins key post on TGWU executive

By Our Labour Editor

Mr. Wedgwood Benn's chief political lieutenant in the trade union movement was yesterday elected to the key post of chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU).

In a convincing first ballot victory, Mr. Walter Green- dale, a Hull docker, took 19 executive council votes against 12 for his more moderate rival, Mr. Brian Nicholson, leader of the London dockworkers. A third candidate, Mr. Dan Duffy, from Scotland, regarded as a leftwinger, picked up only four votes.

The election for chairman, which was expected to go to several ballots, gives a reasonably reliable indication of the political balance in the TGWU leadership. As a result of executive elections in recent months it is clear that the left now enjoys at least a 2-1 majority.

Mr. Green-dale, aged 55, is a long-time socialist who was influential in last year's campaign to win trade union votes for the Benn candidacy to unseat Mr. Denis Healey that failed only by a whisker.

His election seals for the next two critical years the political direction of the TGWU lay executive. And if precedent is followed he will be re-elected every two years, to enjoy a decade of authority.

It is also significant that Mr. Green-dale, who is a member of the TUC general council, retains responsibility at a time when the balance of power has shifted away from the full-time leaders of the transport union to the rank-and-file members who make up its executive. But the left's success comes at a time of sharply declining TGWU membership.

The transport workers have lost an estimated 400,000 members over the last two years. Recent takeovers of the dyers and bleachers and agricultural workers will boost the union's membership by 110,000 to 1.8 million, far

short of the 2.1 million in the heyday of Mr. Jack Jones. How Mr. Green-dale and the TGWU will fit into the current left-wing argument over whether Mr. Benn should abandon his deputy leadership challenge is not yet clear.

Strong private pressures are at work to forestall another Benn challenge at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool in October. Leftwing union leaders have advised Mr. Benn and his supporters to concentrate on policy issues in the run-up to the general election, rather than wasting the Foot- Healey leadership battle.

Yorkshire miners boycott Gornley

Yorkshire miners are to boycott any functions held in honour of Mr. Joseph Gornley, retiring president of the National Union of Mineworkers, because he urged members to accept the coal board's last wages offer in their ballot (Ronald Kershaw writes from Barnsley).

The Yorkshire area council yesterday passed a resolution condemning Mr. Gornley for his action and instructing the union's national executive members on the boycott.

Mr. Arthur Scargill, his successor, who bitterly attacked him at the time, said after yesterday's meeting that he felt the matter was off the agenda and over.

Mr. Scargill said it instructed the three NEC members from Yorkshire "not to attend any functions where the NEC or anybody else are going to say thank you to Mr. Gornley". In answer to questions Mr. Scargill said he had never opposed any resolution passed by his area council.

Earlier, a new hard line policy emerged in three resolutions the area council are to send to the union's

national conference at Inverness in July. The first calls for an amendment to the union's rule 43 to provide for a "simple majority" before industrial action is taken, replacing the 55 per cent requirement.

The second resolution calls for a £110 basic minimum wage for surface workers, with appropriate differentials for all other grades, amounting to a 26.5 per cent increase. It demands that the rates be sought in the next round of wage negotiations, and insists that negotiations are concluded before November 1 this year.

The resolution says: Unless the NEC meet this demand in full the NEC is instructed to call a special delegate conference to consider the position. If this conference rejects the coal board's offer the NEC be instructed to recommend in a ballot vote that they be given authority to take various forms of industrial action in pursuance of the claim.

The resolution further instructs the executive that if the board's offer is rejected at the special delegate conference it should impose an immediate overtime ban from the date of the conference.

A third resolution to the national conference calls on the union to start negotiations on an early retirement scheme for surface workers.

Again, if the union does not receive a satisfactory response a special delegate conference, should consider industrial disruption including strike action.

Man shot in bank raid

A man was shot in the leg and another clubbed with a pickaxe handle as they tried to stop an armed bank raid in West London, yesterday. The raiders, carrying a rifle, a shotgun and a pistol, escaped with £50,000 from the National Westminster bank in Southall.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Hospital buys water at Boots

Instead of replacing a disused waste machine at a cost of £100,000, a London hospital is buying the water it needs from Boots at about the same cost over four months. St Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, south London, claims the needless expenditure is the result of Department of Health rules.

A spokesman for the 1,000-bed teaching hospital said it faced the bill because money was available in its revenue account for day-to-day running expenses but not in the capital account used to buy new equipment. He said that health authorities were allowed to transfer only one per cent of cash from the revenue account to the capital account in a financial year.

But a health department spokesman described the explanation for the waste as "very odd. In principle only one per cent can be transferred but we have arranged larger transfers for other hospitals."

Since the hospital's 10-year-old machine broke down in December £45,000 has been spent on discoloured water from Boots. The same amount is expected to be spent before a new machine arrives at the start of the next financial year.

Police hunt for widow's killer

Police in Hampshire were yesterday hunting the murderer of a widow aged 86: Mrs. Annie Majors was found battered to death on Sunday in her flat which had been set alight in Ballards Close, Southampton Estate, Basingstoke.

A post mortem carried out by Dr. Peter Pullar, a Home Office pathologist, revealed that she had died from multiple injuries to the head.

Flu kills seven in home for aged

A influenza epidemic which swept through a Warwickshire old people's home killed seven residents and made 15 seriously ill. Four women and three men have died during the past few days at the council-run Tiddington Field home in Stratford on Avon.

Hooded raider

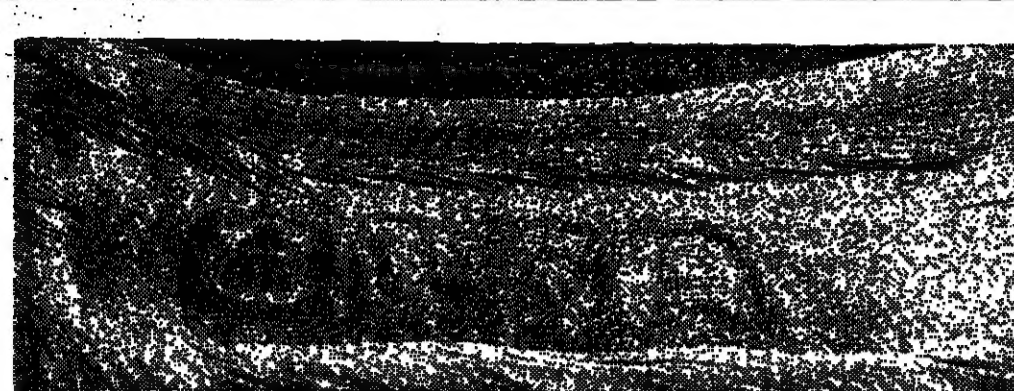
Police are hunting a man in his early 20s, wearing a parka with fur hood, who walked into Lloyds Bank in Shrewsbury, yesterday, held a pistol to a woman's neck and fled with £3,000.

Princess home

Princess Michael of Kent, who had a gall bladder operation last week, left King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, London, yesterday for her home at Kensington Palace.



Modern science takes a hand in the fight against horse-thieves. Topo and Beauty are among 10,000 horses in Britain which have been freeze-marked with identification numbers in an attempt to deter thieves. Beauty's marking could clearly be seen yesterday at Modasa Stables, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire. Above, Topo receives its number.



Loophole fear in toxic waste controls

By David Nicholson-Lord

Government proposals to control imports of dangerous chemical waste leave a loophole which could allow waste to be abandoned in Britain, according to the Association of County Councils.

A series of controversies last year involving foreign waste led to fears that Britain was becoming a "toxic dustbin" for countries like The Netherlands and West Germany, which have more stringent environmental protection.

After emergency meetings with local authorities, the Department of the Environment published its counter-proposals in December.

But, according to the counties, which are expected to release their evidence later this week, those proposals are inadequate because councils would still have insufficient warning of waste arriving in Britain.

Calls for the counties to be given new legislative powers to ban certain consignments, and for the Government to use its prohibition powers under the Control of Pollution Act, have also apparently been rejected. So too, the association says, has the proposal from the Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology that importers

should be required to take out insurance against bankruptcy.

That happened in the most notorious case last year, when 22,000 tonnes of phenolic and industrial solvent waste from The Netherlands "turned up" at British docks without adequate disposal arrangements. The importing company, Rialfield, shortly afterwards went bankrupt. Phenol, although said to be highly diluted in the consignment, is extremely poisonous and corrosive.

Nine months later, it remains in storage tanks at Humberside and Southampton while proposals to dump

it at sea have drawn strong protests from Greenpeace, the international environmental group. Greenpeace has objected to British Petroleum, one of the "holding" firms, and also to the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to the Immingham Storage Company, which has another 8,220 tonnes of the Dutch waste, incineration and dumping at sea would leave only a soluble mist of hydrochloric acid. But Greenpeace says that defects in the maintenance and procedures of the ships employed might also produce clouds of DDT.

Health fee for foreign students is attacked

By Annabel Ferriman

Britain's 70,000 overseas students are going to provide £1m of the £6m which is to be raised from charging overseas visitors for health service care, Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

Students on government grants would have their health insurance premiums paid for them, but others would have no help with the payments.

Mr. Fowler was being questioned by the race relations and immigration subcommittee of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee and faced hostile questions from the Labour members.

Mr. Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, accused the Government of creating a potentially explosive situation by introducing a new charging system to raise £6m, which was "peanuts".

Mr. Fowler said it was a "grotesque overstatement" to suggest it would create an explosive situation. He said £6m could pay the salaries of about 900 ward sisters.

He said the new procedures which were announced in Parliament last week and which will come into effect from October 1, would consist of a few simple initial questions to establish whether someone was normally resident in Britain, and only if it became clear that they were not, would they be subjected to more detailed questioning by a senior member of staff. No one would be required to produce a passport, though some people might choose to, and only very rarely would it be necessary to consult the Home Office to establish someone's liability.

Mr. Lyon said: "It is precisely that fear which animates the black population."

More home news on page 23

Family conciliation scheme reprieved

By Frances Glibb

The Government is shortly to announce the setting up of a high-level committee of senior civil servants to monitor the value of family conciliation schemes, which aim to resolve matrimonial disputes out of court, and determine what saving they contribute to public expenditure.

The decision, which comes after pressure from the Law Commission and the Law Society as well as other groups, means that the Pioneer scheme, the Bristol Family Conciliation Service, which faced closure, has been temporarily reprieved.

The Government and local authority is to fund the scheme with an estimated £30,000 for a year, so that it may act as a pilot service together with others for monitoring by the committee and the formulation of long-term government policy on conciliation.

The Bristol scheme was set up on a full-time basis in 1979 on a grant mainly from the Nuffield Foundation (due to run out this April) and examples in matrimonial disputes reach out of court settlements on such questions as custody of children, access, money and property.

Mrs. Lisa Parkinson, organizer, said yesterday: "We are relieved that the service has been given the opportunity to continue for a further year and contribute to this review of the system of handling matrimonial cases and in particular matrimonial disputes."

'Private Eye' allegations 'hurtful' to Wilcox

Mr. Desmond Wilcox, the television producer, told a High Court judge yesterday that allegations in *Private Eye* magazine that he had abused his position with the BBC to make money for himself were "extremely damaging and hurtful".

Mr. Wilcox married to Esther Rantzen, hostess of the *That's Life* television programme, is suing *Private Eye* for damages for alleged libel in five articles published in 1975 when he headed the BBC's general features department.

The articles coincided with the showing of the BBC2 series *Exploiters*, and the publication of a book of the series, written by Mr. Wilcox.

Mr. Anthony Hoolahan, QC, for Mr. Wilcox, said: "The idea from the articles is that he set up the whole thing; prompted the TV series and organized himself as the author of the book with a view to making himself a very large amount of money out of it."

The articles also accused Mr. Wilcox, who made £12,000 from the book, of knowingly and wrongfully infringing the copyright of the series scriptwriters.

But Mr. Hoolahan said that in 1977 a group of scriptwriters received £54,000 damages from the BBC in a



Mr. Desmond Wilcox

Mr. Wilcox was not required to make any contribution to the damages or costs.

"The allegations are very far from the truth, and subjected him to a great deal of unjust and unfair criticism," Mr. Hoolahan said. Mr. Wilcox, of Chiswick Quay, west London, who worked for the BBC from 1965 until 1980, said he was "very disturbed and upset" at the *Private Eye* allegations.

Mr. Wilcox is suing Press-dram Ltd and S W Litho (Printer) Ltd, publishers and printers of *Private Eye*, and Mr. Richard Ingrams, its editor. The hearing continues

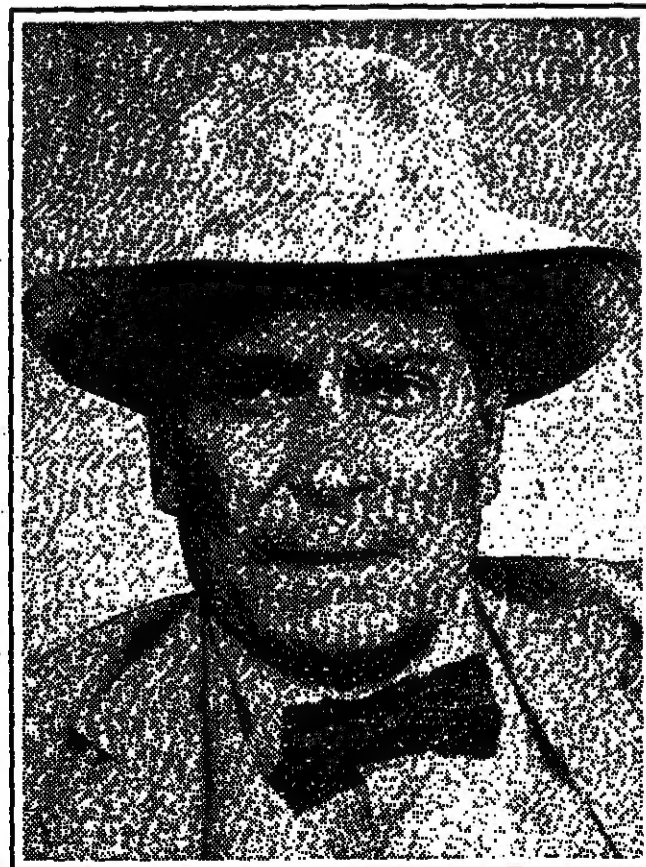
TONIGHT AT 9.00 LAURENCE OLIVIER AND ALAN BATES

IN JOHN MORTIMER'S

'A VOYAGE ROUND MY FATHER'

WITH JANE ASHER AND ELIZABETH SELLARS.

A FILM FOR TELEVISION, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY ALVIN RAKOFF



"Be my eyes. Paint me the picture..."

"I was still a boy when my father was struck blind: a blindness which he and the rest of my family studiously ignored. My father continued his practise as a barrister, dwelling with words in the divorce courts, fixing witnesses with his unseeing eyes. Angry, eccentric, he went his own way..."



NEWS IN SUMMARY

Palestinian shot dead in Madrid

Madrid. — A Palestinian was shot dead in Madrid yesterday and the Palestine Liberation Organization blamed the killing on Mossad, the Israeli secret service. A man approached Mr. Nabil Aranki Wadi, aged 34, from behind as he walked in the street near his home and shot him twice in the back of the head, police said. Mr. Wadi was said to have returned to Madrid from Beirut several days ago on an Iraqi passport. He was born in Haifa, had lived in Spain since 1972 and studied pharmacy in Salamanca, the Spanish news agency said.

Jet and van in runway collision

Frankfurt. — An airport van driver escaped with minor injuries when his vehicle was involved in a runway collision with a barely airborne jumbo jet, Frankfurt airport officials said.

The Lufthansa airliner, bound for San Francisco with 247 passengers, lost two undercarriage covers and sustained a 10-yard scratch along the rear fuselage. The van was a write-off.

TUC seeks action on Turkey

British trade union leaders have asked Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, to deny all assistance to the authorities in Ankara "so as to isolate the Turkish military regime until trade union freedoms are restored" (Paul Routledge writes).

The TUC International Committee deplored the arrest of Mr. Orhan Apaydin, principal defence lawyer for 27 Turkish trade union leaders, as another serious blow to free trade unionism in Turkey.

Portugal hit by rail strike

Lisbon. — A new strike brought Portugal's state railway system virtually to a halt for two weeks after the Government ended a series of city-line transport stoppages by granting inflationary pay rises.

The engine drivers' union started the first of what it says will be a series of five 24-hour strikes between now and March 9 over a demand for increased fringe benefits.

Red Brigades plot foiled

Naples. — A Red Brigades plan to launch an attack by helicopter against Milan's San Vittore Prison was foiled at the last minute with the arrest of 17 terrorists, the public prosecutor's office said.

The announcement said that police had also uncovered nine Red Brigades hide-outs.

Seal ships blessed

St John's Newfoundland. Christian clergymen blessed six ships and their crews who will take part in Canada's controversial annual seal hunt. About 1,000 people attended an interdenominational service here.

Schmidt defends ministers in bribes scandal

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 1

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today stood firmly by two senior ministers and his top aide, under investigation in an alleged bribery and tax evasion affair which has shaken the already strained Government.

The Chancellor and the Cabinet today discussed the implications of the formal investigation announced by the Bonn Public Prosecutor against nine prominent figures in politics and industry, including Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, Herr Hans Matthöfer, the Finance Minister, and Herr Manfred Lahnstein, the head of the Chancellery.

The three are suspected of *Vorteilnahme*, which implies that they may have accepted bribes for helping firms to avoid paying taxes. After the meeting, Herr Kurt Becker, the Government's spokesman, read a statement saying the two ministers and Count Lambsdorff had emphatically denied the allegations and were convinced that their names would be cleared.

The Chancellor had complete confidence in all three and saw on reason to suspend or remove them from their posts. They had demanded that the public prosecutor hear their case immediately and inform them of the details of the suspicions against them. They complained that this had so far been refused.

The Government also urged the prosecutor's office to conduct the investigations as quickly as possible so that the matter could be cleared up rapidly.

This urgency is understandable since the stigma of corruption, whether it is real or not, is extremely damaging here, particularly in a year when there are four important state elections.

It will take weeks, perhaps months, before the prosecutor's office decides whether the ministers are blameless or whether to send those concerned for trial. If charges are raised against

them, the two ministers and Herr Lahnstein could be expected to resign.

President Carstens, in an apparent attempt to put the affair into perspective, said in an interview today that it was wrong to speak of a crisis or a German Watergate. "One should not over-estimate these things," he said. "The people have confidence in our state and our parties."

The investigations came on top of a long series of troubles for Herr Schmidt, including dissent within the two coalition parties and deep differences between them on important policies. Curiously, these investigations have the advantage — since Herr Matthöfer is a Social Democrat and Count Lambsdorff a Free Democrat — of waiting them in their problems.

Criticism from the opposition is muted, for members of the Christian Democrat Party are also among the nine under investigation.

The names of the two ministers have been linked in the West German press for some time with investigations into alleged tax evasion by the three main parties in their fund-raising activities. It has long been passively accepted that donors — particularly large firms — are encouraged to donate tax-deductible funds to political or charitable organisations which pass them to organisations abroad. They are then rerouted to the parties' coffers at home.

An agreement among the parties on an amnesty for such offenders was dropped after a public outcry. President Carstens is expected soon to nominate a commission to find legal ways the parties can make up for this lucrative source of income.

Until now the possible charges were only likely to have been tax evasion, regarded here as a peccadillo, especially if it is in the parties' cause. It came as a shock to the Bonn political world when it became clear that the ministers were thinking in terms of corruption.

Nkomo link with Walls claimed by Mugabe

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, March 1

A senior Zimbabwe minister alleged yesterday that Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the former Army commander, had arranged meetings between South African military officers and Mr. Joshua Nkomo in Zimbabwe soon after independence.

Mr. Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said that Mr. Nkomo had asked General Walls to set up the meetings with the intention of obtaining South African help to overthrow Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

The minister claimed that the meetings had taken place at General Walls's Salisbury home. The general was also alleged to be recruiting groups of dissident Zimbabweans to carry out sabotage operations here.

He was barred from Zimbabwe after admitting in a BBC television interview that he had considered leading a military coup against Mr. Mugabe.

On target for Guatemalan poll



Patrolling the Pan-American highway: With political killings now running at more than 400 a month, Guatemala shows signs of equaling El Salvador in the ferocity of its internal struggles. Although American military aid was banned in 1977 because of human rights

abuses, the Guatemalan Army — blamed for most of the killings — continues to move its soldiers in American lorries and Jeeps. Such vehicles essential to counter-insurgency, have been removed from the embargo list. With elections due next Sunday, kidnappings,

massacres and attacks are increasing, and the recent unification of four main guerrilla groups is likely to intensify the violence. The Reagan Administration is seeking to resume military shipments to Guatemala, and \$250,000 has been earmarked for military training

Treurnicht to join opposition

From Michael Horvath, Johannesburg, March 1

The split in South Africa's ruling National Party became certain today with a clear signal from Dr. Andries Treurnicht, the party's high priest of apartheid, that he will not recant and that he will therefore be going into the ranks of the opposition with his band of rebel MPs.

Speaking last night after being defeated by Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, in a crucial party vote, Dr. Treurnicht said: "I made it quite clear at Saturday's meeting that if they insisted on the retention of apartheid, I would be finished and there would be no turning back."

The expulsion of Dr. Treurnicht and his fellow rebels from the National Party at Wednesday's meeting of its parliamentary caucus in Cape Town seems now to be little more than a formality.

Three of the 21 National Party MPs who voted with Dr. Treurnicht a week ago against a motion of confidence in the Prime Minister over the issue of "power-sharing" between whites, Coloureds (those of mixed race) and Indians have since had second thoughts and returned to the bosom of the party.

So Dr. Treurnicht and his men seem likely to form a new right-wing opposition group of 19 MPs, reducing the National Party's strength from 142 to 121. The biggest opposition party will remain the Anti-Apartheid Progressive Federal Party, led by Dr. Frederik Willem de Klerk, which has 27 seats. Supported by the two will be the moderately reformist New Republic Party of Mr. Vause Raw.

In circumstances chillingly reminiscent of a massacre here last month, unidentified armed men raided homes in the capital yesterday, and dragged away young men.

The raids took place in a neighbourhood of mean shacks that straggles down the side of a ravine four blocks from the Sheraton Hotel, at the foot of the San Salvador volcano.

Residents, who last night said the armed men had returned to threaten them if they spoke to journalists, reported that the raiders had sought out all the young men in the neighbourhood aged between 15 and 20, tied their hands behind their backs, and took them away in a fleet of minibuses.

The residents said that the raiders were dressed as civilians, but carried G3 assault rifles, a weapon used by both sides in the Salvadoran war.

□ London: More than 900 Poles have been given permission to extend their stay in Britain since the beginning of the crisis in Poland late last year according to the Home Office. Government policy is to renew visas for Britain while the situation remains uncertain (Stewart Tandler writes).

□ Geneva: Mr. Walesa has been visited by delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (Alan McGregor writes). In revealing this today, the committee's president, Mr. Alexandre Hay, declining to give further details said the Red Cross had three teams in Poland for medical purposes and intended to speed up its programme.

□ Washington: Romania has paid the \$5.8m (£3.16m) which the United States demanded last week on commodity loans and had denied any parallel with Poland's debt problems (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Salvadorean dilemma

Reagan's options running out

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 1

El Salvador is becoming the top foreign policy issue confronting the Reagan Administration. However, it is growing increasingly clear that the Administration is uncertain how to proceed if — as now seems likely — this month's elections in the Central American republic do not succeed in bringing the conflict to an end.

According to informed sources, President Reagan, who is due to begin a week-long visit to the West Coast tomorrow, has been presented with a gloomy assessment of El Salvador's election prospects by his senior advisers.

The President has been told that, because of escalating guerrilla activity, the chances of holding a successful election on March 28 are rapidly dwindling. He has been advised that the Salvadoran forces have little chance of winning a prolonged war against the insurgents.

In the speech last week in which he presented his Caribbean Basin Plan, the President emphasised America's commitment to El Salvador, which is to receive a substantial increase in American military aid.

He also emphasised that the United States had no plans to send combat troops to support the Government of President José Napoleón Duarte.

The dilemma facing the President and his advisers is simple but stark. On the one hand, they want to prevent the insurgents from taking power, on the grounds that the establishment of a left-wing regime in El Salvador, in addition to Nicaragua (supported by Cuba), would pose a threat to other countries in the area, notably Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica.

On the other hand, the Administration wants to avoid being drawn into a situation in which it can only prevent this happening by the direct involvement of American forces.

Opinion in the United States is divided on whether America should become more deeply involved in El Salvador. Some conservatives have urged the President to use El Salvador as an example to show the world — that the United States will stand up for its friends when they are threatened by communist expansionism.

However, the conservatives are in the minority. Opinion polls show that there is strong public sentiment against a military effort to help the Salvadoran Government.

A leading article in *The New York Times* today, which was strongly critical of the President's stance on El

Salvador, emphasised the need for foreign policy to be backed up by domestic support. "By any reasonable measure," the newspaper said, "the test in El Salvador" is failing.

The Administration's dilemma is compounded by lack of support for its present policy among its allies. Furthermore, America's southern neighbour, Mexico, favours negotiations between the Government and guerrillas in El Salvador as the best way of ending the bloodshed while Canada, though not opposed to this month's elections, is also beginning to lean towards a negotiated settlement.

□ President José López Portillo of Mexico has said that chances of peace in El Salvador have been diminished by President Reagan's recent tough speech about the tensions in Central America (Peter Strafford writes).

In an interview with *Le Monde*, President López Portillo said that he would, however, continue to offer mediation.

He said he still insisted on the need for a "dialogue" between the opposing parties. He expected his ideas to be taken up at a meeting soon between Señor Jorge Castañeda, the Mexican Foreign Minister, and Mr. Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

Death squad victims vanish

From Paul Kilmann, San Salvador, March 1

In circumstances chillingly reminiscent of a massacre here last month, unidentified armed men raided homes in the capital yesterday, and dragged away young men.

The raids took place in a neighbourhood of mean shacks that straggles down the side of a ravine four blocks from the Sheraton Hotel, at the foot of the San Salvador volcano.

Residents, who last night said the armed men had returned to threaten them if they spoke to journalists, reported that the raiders had sought out all the young men in the neighbourhood aged between 15 and 20, tied their hands behind their backs, and took them away in a fleet of minibuses.

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rean war. They also noted that there had been no police patrols of the neighbourhood at all yesterday.

Normally, they said, there was a heavy police presence in their neighbourhood. The absence of police patrols was all the more remarkable in view of the massive security operation carried out in San Salvador yesterday, to coincide with the second anniversary of a massacre of mourners at the funeral of the assassinated Archbishop of El Salvador.

A spokesman for the national police said he had "no knowledge" of the abduction.

The young men were seized not far from San Antonio Abad, where 20 civilians were killed three weeks ago by Salvadoran soldiers.

The whereabouts of the victims of the latest raid

remained unknown today, but their disappearance reflected a trend which is causing increasing concern to relief organisations here.

Apparently because of the glare of publicity that has focused on the "death squads" and other groups responsible for political violence in El Salvador, are increasingly taking their victims to so far undisturbed places to dispose of them.

"We know that human rights are being violated on a bigger scale than ever, but we're not finding the bodies. People are just disappearing, and when we approach Government officials, they ask us how do we know that the missing people haven't gone off to join the guerrillas," said an official of an international organization, who asked to remain anonymous.

□ Mr. Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, said, in a statement today that Mr. Papandreu had done the prospects for inter-communal talks by coming to Cyprus. (Reuter reports). "I think his visit has done a great deal of damage. It will make progress in the talks very much more difficult to achieve."

Mr. Denktaş added that Mr. Papandreu was only paying lip service

Papandreu rejects package on Cyprus

From Mario Modiano, Nicosia, March 1

Mr. Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, rejected today the idea of a package deal with Turkey to solve the problems of Cyprus and the Aegean. Both issues were, as he put it, the products of Turkish expansionism which the West had failed to bridge.

The Prime Minister was outlining his Government's new strategy on Cyprus during a news conference just before flying back home after two days in Cyprus which, he said, had made him feel proud to be a Greek.

Greece, according to Mr. Papandreu, would reactivate its role as a guarantor power of Cyprus by launching a worldwide crusade to explain the true nature of the Cyprus problem as a case of "foreign invasion and occupation of an independent state."

He added: "We shall never forget that Britain, which is also a guarantor power, failed to fulfil its obligations towards the Cypriot people."

Greece has an effective military presence on Cyprus and Mr. Papandreu underlined this by unveiling today a memorial for the 44 dead and 61 missing officers and men of the Greek Army contingent in Cyprus who gave their lives during what the unit's acting commander described as "the barbarous invasion of the age-old enemy of our race."

Mr. Papandreu was asked during the press conference if he would favour a package solution for Cyprus and the Aegean. He answered that the two issues were historically interlinked since they sprang from Turkish expansionism. Yet Cyprus was a problem of Turkish occupation, while the Aegean was a Greek-Turkish problem which, since both were NATO countries, was a problem for the alliance.

This redefinition of the two basic issues sums up Mr. Papandreu's new strategy towards Turkey.

He appeared prepared to tolerate the Cyprus intercommunal talks under United Nations auspices for as long as it is necessary for the United Nations to prove that it can produce no solution while the Turkish occupation of the island remains on the ground. That was the real problem of the island and he was launching his crusade to invite initiatives from European countries.

He said today: "This is the time when we are asking our friends to stand up and be counted. Their friendship must be proved."

The Greek leader said he thought there would be action, particularly if international personalities such as Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor, accepted a role not as mediator but as a catalyst. He also claimed to detect a possible shift of Soviet policy in the region from what the Soviet press was publishing of late.

Addressing a special session of Parliament in Nicosia last night, he listed three conditions for a Cyprus solution to be acceptable to Greece: It should leave no part of Cyprus under foreign occupation; it should allow all refugees to return to their homes; and it should enable the people of Cyprus, both Greeks and Turks, to enjoy the rights of an independent, integral, demilitarized, and non-aligned republic.

Except for sporadic machine-gun bursts in the Turkish sector, near the dividing "green line", attributed to army exercises, there has been so far no reaction from the Turkish-Cypriot community to Mr. Papandreu's visit which has given the Greek-Cypriots fresh hope for a solution.

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Mr. Denktaş added that Mr. Papandreu was only paying lip service

Poland: Disillusion grows

Glemp joins swing against Jaruzelski

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 1

Fresh evidence of the hardening of Poland's Roman Catholic Church towards the country's martial law authorities has emerged from a conversation between Archbishop Józef Glemp, the Polish Primate, and Western diplomats.

This conversation, held soon after his return from talks with the Pope last month, reveals that the Primate expects increasingly sharp treatment of the Church and individual priests by the hardline factions in the Communist Party. The Church has publicly denied this but the Primate also said that he believed that lists of priests eligible for arrest had been drawn up.

The Primate has usually urged his bishops — some of whom have wanted a much tougher line against the Government — to remember that General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister and party leader, is a moderate. However, he appears to have changed his opinion since his visit to Rome.

"This is an earlier qualification that does not fit him any more," the minutes quote the Primate as saying. Archbishop Glemp still thinks it is essential that General Jaruzelski continues in power and describes him as the last chance for Poland.

The Primate has also changed his view of committees of national leaders, local consultative groups that are trying to bolster the power of the party in the provinces by admitting non-party members with local expertise. He tacitly praised

these committees in a sermon on January 24 but in his recent meeting with the country's martial law authorities he explicitly distanced himself.

Some of his attitudes seem to be in line with thinking: he is worried about individual priests who distribute anti-state documents and he is worried about the effect of American sanctions on food supplies in Poland. "If you fight for freedom with too much enthusiasm you run the risk of losing it," he said, drawing parallels between American policies of Poland and the incautious attitudes of some of the radicals in Solidarity, the suspended trade union organization.

The main message that comes through is of disillusion with the Government, which despite its commitment to dialogue was making no progress. "It would be wrong to talk about dialogue having taken place since December 13 (the day that martial law was declared)" the Primate is quoted as saying.

Archbishop Glemp has drawn much closer to the main caucus of Poland's bishops, who have consistently advocated strict criticism of the martial law authorities. In a communiqué read from Polish pulpits on Sunday, the bishops drove home their message calling for an end to internment, an end to persecution at the workplace and the restoration of civil rights as a precondition for genuine dialogue with the Government.

The question puzzling diplomats is whether this hardening of the Primate's



Watchful eye: Archbishop Glemp preaching in Warsaw on Sunday.

position is the direct result of his talks with the Pope or of pressure from his bishops, or external factors such as coldness on the part of the Government.

Diplomats in Warsaw discount the possibility of the Pope having urged a tougher position. In talks in Rome shortly after his meetings with the Pope, the Primate made it clear that he was moderate and mildly optimistic that a solution could be found to the Polish crisis within the current framework. In public, the Primate emphasizes conciliation and

the need to avoid violence, indeed did so in short addresses over the weekend.

There is also mystery about the Christianization of the daughter of Mr. Lech Walesa, the interned Solidarity leader. Originally, his parish priest, Henryk Jankowski, had said that the Christianizing would probably take place on March 7 in Gdansk. The authorities expressed an initial willingness to release Mr. Walesa temporarily for the occasion but have been reluctant to allow him to go to Gdansk where considerable opposition continues.

□ London: More than 900 Poles have been given permission to extend their stay in Britain since the beginning of the crisis in Poland late last year according to the Home Office. Government policy is to renew visas for Britain while the situation remains uncertain (Stewart Tandler writes).

□ Geneva: Mr. Walesa has been visited by delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (Alan McGregor writes). In revealing this today, the committee's president, Mr. Alexandre Hay, declining to give further details said the Red Cross had three teams in Poland for medical purposes and intended to speed up its programme.

□ Washington: Romania has paid the \$5.8m (£3.16m) which the United States demanded last week on commodity loans and had denied any parallel with Poland's debt problems (Our Foreign Staff writes).

16 SURVIVE FIVE DAYS ON RAFT

Wellington, March 1. — An American skipper today described how he and 15 friends survived five days in inflatable lifeboats after their floating commune was sunk by freak waves off New Zealand.

Mr. Evan Logan said that a New Zealander, Julie Osborne, had drowned in the mountains seas, but the others "all came up in about the same place along with the lifeboats. It was a stroke of luck."

Their lifeboat, packed with emergency provisions and a beacon, went down with the ship, the *Sofia*. The survivors, 11 New Zealanders and five Americans, had to clamber on board the lifeboats amid 6 ft waves.

They were finally picked up yesterday after shining a torch at a Russian fisheries support vessel. Two of the men and four women were later treated for saltwater sores. — Reuter.

US and China play it cool

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, March 1

President Reagan and Mr. Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, exchanged low-key letters yesterday to mark the tenth anniversary of renewed ties between the two countries, but made no direct reference to their controversy over the supply of American arms to Taiwan.

In his letter, Mr. Reagan declared his willingness to work with Peking to "overcome differences and deepen American-China ties." Mr. Zhao's letter said that the development of Sino-American relations was not only in the fundamental interests of "our two peoples, but also conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in Asia and the world as a whole."

He did not refer to China's strong objections to sales of military aircraft and other weapons to Taiwan but said his Government was willing to make efforts to "overcome the obstacles currently existing in the relations between the two countries."

The letters commemorated the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Shanghai Communiqué, by President Nixon and the late Mr. Chou En-lai, then the Chinese Prime Minister. This opened the way to full diplomatic relations between the two countries from January 1, 1979.

Both Washington and Peking allowed the anniversary to pass yesterday without any public celebrations, thus reflecting the lack of warmth in their current relations. Only last month Washington announced that it would allow Taiwan to co-produce F5E fighters, although as an obvious concession to Peking, it ruled out the supply of more advanced aircraft.

President Reagan's letter said bilateral ties now encompassed trade, banking, maritime affairs, civil aviation, agriculture, education, scientific exchange, technology transfer and many other fields. Well over 100,000 Americans and Chinese now flowed back and

forth between the two countries each year. These good relations enhanced the prospects for peace and stability throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, he said.

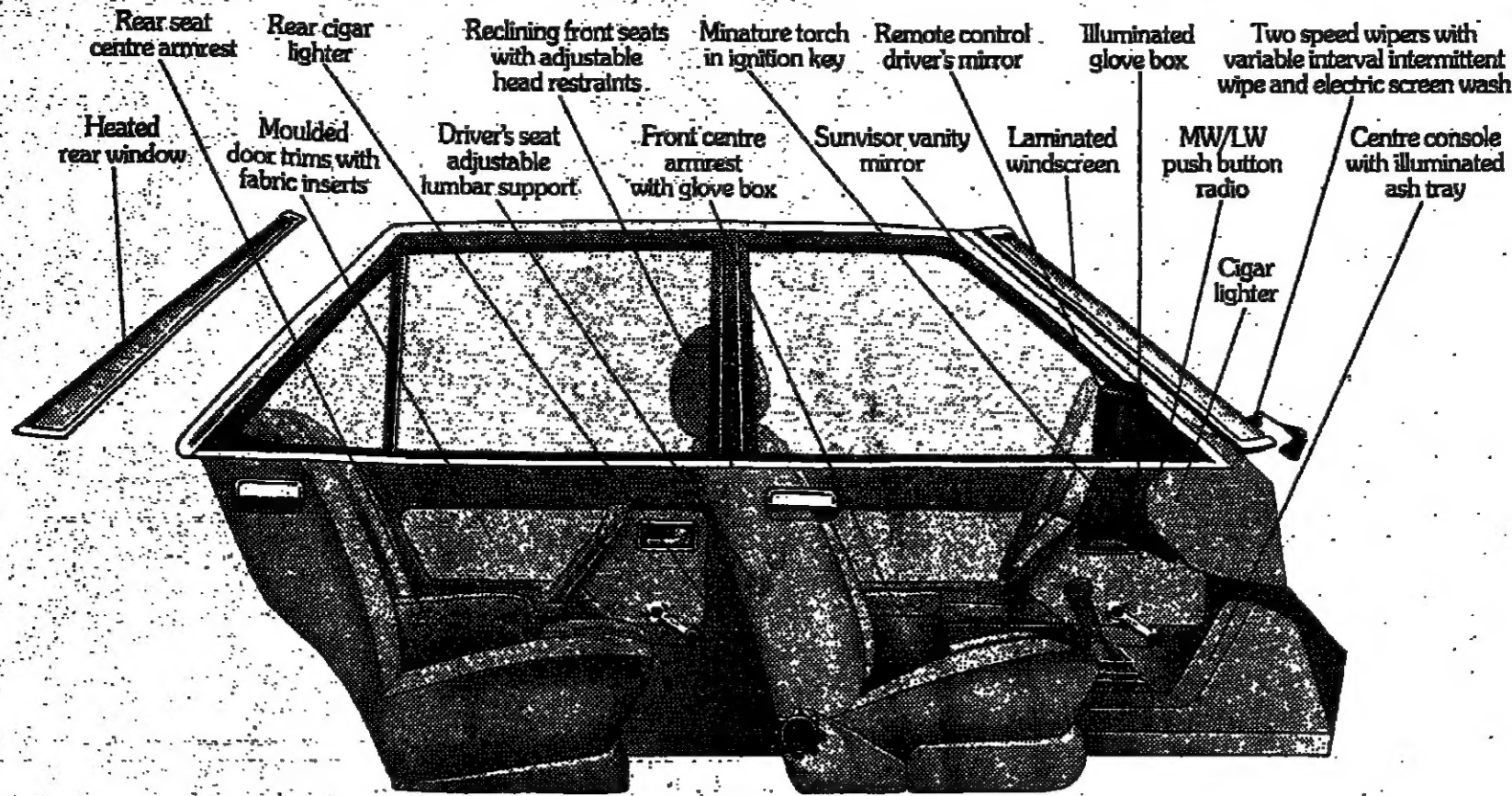
The President expressed the desire to build an even stronger bilateral and strategic framework for long-term friendship between the two nations.

Neither of the two leaders mentioned their strained relations with the Soviet Union. But a State Department spokesman answering reporters' questions said the shared global, strategic and regional interests of Peking and Washington far outweighed their differences.

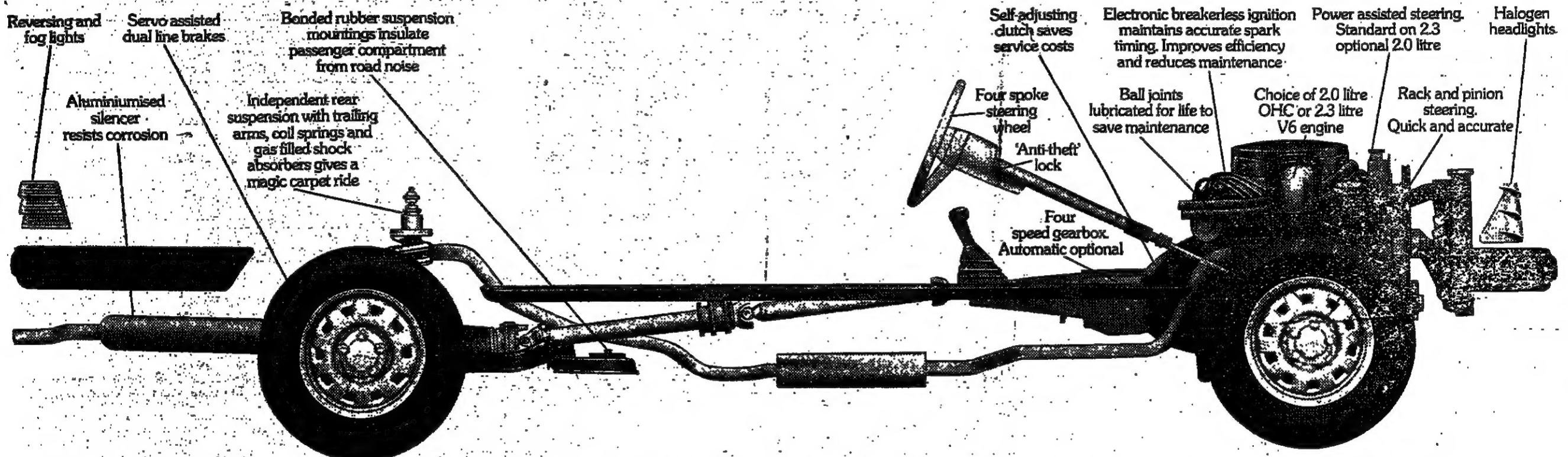
Writing in *The New York Times* yesterday, Mr. Nixon said that the Taiwan issue was causing "rumblings of discord, particularly with regard to American arms sales. Once again, it was vital for both sides to avoid extremes."

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "السلامة والسلامة والسلامة"

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Palace revolt threatens to kill Reagan budget

From Bailey Morris, Washington, March 1

After weeks of intense public scrutiny, it is now apparent that President Reagan's controversial 1983 budget will not be passed in Congress because of a palace revolt among Republicans who cannot accept the large deficit built into the President's proposals.

Over the past turbulent week in Washington, President Reagan has been pressed hard by members of his own party to compromise on the budget.

Republican leaders in Congress say that they do not have the votes to pass a budget that asks for deeper cuts in programmes for the poor while requesting large increases in defence spending and projecting a cumulative three-year federal deficit of \$246,300m (£12,400m).

Mr Peter Domenici, the Republican chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said: "This budget fails to do enough to cut spending and almost benignly malignant deficits which threaten to crush all hope of economic recovery."

Mr Domenici's comments and those of other Republican leaders are the clearest indication of a potentially huge revolt by conservative and moderate Republicans against Mr Reagan's economic programme.

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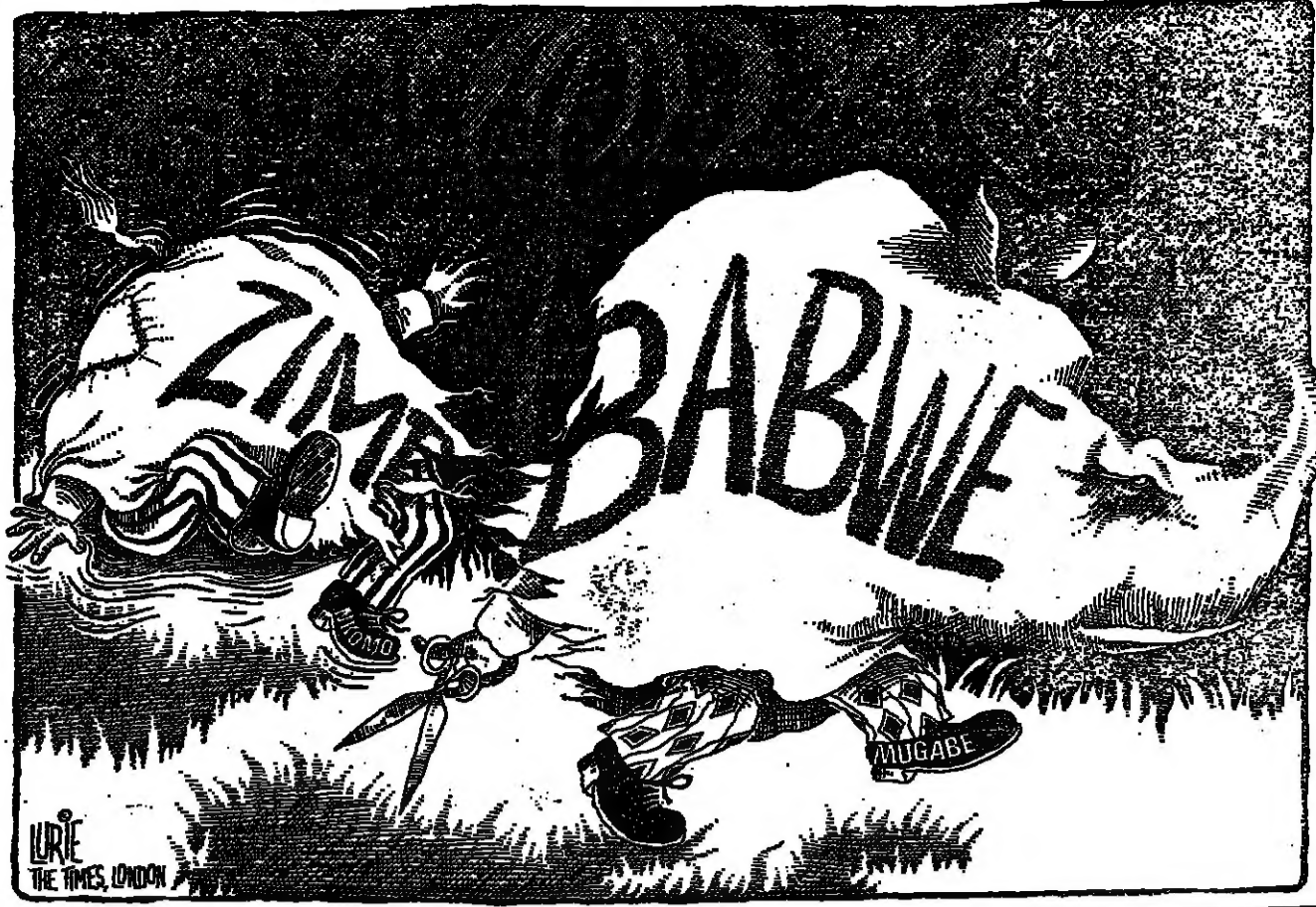
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Threat of war in south Lebanon

Tanks dig into the poppy fields

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 1

The poppies are blooming across the lower Bekaa Valley and along the grain and rocky hills of "Fatahland" where the Palestinian guerrillas are sitting through the last of the winter rains in their leaky tents.

A blaze of red and pink spring flowers have spread themselves up the hills around Hasbaniya where the old Roman bridge over the Hasbani river had been repaved for the local shepherds.

Just south of Deir el Ahmar — a village of chickens, paddles and concrete bungalows — Syrian tanks are dug into the fields, a clutch of dirty-fleeced sheep leaning elegantly against their gun barrels.

A mile or two from the little checkpoint where the United Nations troops — Gurkha and Indian — are dug into the hills, a solitary Palestinian lorry stands in a desolate orchard with a Katynsa rocket battery mounted behind the tailboard.

To the east, the snows of Golan — silver in the morning sunlight — smother the Israeli's high altitude bunkers. If Israeli and Arab should go to war here in the next few weeks, they will have chosen a majestic field of battle.

According to the deputy commander of Norway's United Nations Battalion, which operates here with the Nepalese, there really is no war in sight. A tall, reticent

man who wears a long tape measure before a map of the area which is strewn with blue and red boundary lines, claims that all he knows of a Palestinian arms build-up comes from the newspapers.

"We know nothing about any forthcoming war," he says. "Things have never been calmer in the area. Everyone is obeying the rules."

That may be technically true; but he omitted to mention a few significant details that privately cloud the military optimism of the United Nations in this beautiful corner of Lebanon. He failed to mention, for instance, that the Syrians have dug tank revetments south of their present lines, advanced positions for tanks and heavy armour should the Israelis invade Lebanon through the United Nations' area of control.

He also neglected to mention that Israeli regular troops have been conducting night live-firing exercises in the ruined village of Khiam, a short distance from the Israeli border.

A few months ago, such manoeuvres were rare, a monthly, at the most, a weekly event, but now the Israelis practise for hours each night with hand-grenades, rifles and automatic weapons.

Every day, too, according to United Nations officers, Israeli troops walk up to the Norwegian lines and stand in

ritual fashion exactly one foot inside the United Nations' territory.

They then allow themselves to be pushed physically back into the Haddad enclave. The Norwegian troops who vouchsafe this extraordinary story believe it is part of a system of harassment designed to unnerve them prior to an Israeli invasion. What after all, would the United Nations do if the Israelis moved into southern Lebanon and crossed their lines?

The Israelis have alleged that Palestinian guerrillas north of the United Nations' area have been increasing their arms supplies and bringing in new weapons in contravention of last July's ceasefire agreement.

In fact, the Palestinians have been bringing in quantities of ammunition but hardly any weapons. They have about 40 aging T54 tanks lying around the land north of the Litani river — several of them are kept in garages — but the most reliable information, apparently accepted privately by Israeli military authorities, is that not one T54 tank has fallen into their hands.

Reports in recent months that the Palestinians have taken possession of modern Soviet-made battle tanks — both by the United Nations and by diplomats in Beirut — are regarded as a credit to little more than imagination.

There is little reason for the Palestinians to acquire such armour, even if they

knew how to drive and fire the weapons. If the Israelis move into Lebanon, the Syrians are ready to move south to meet them.

Some miles north of the United Nations' lines, the Syrians have equipped their positions with several Soviet-made ZSU 23-4 anti-aircraft guns, squat tracked vehicles with a radar mounted behind four Chinese guns. The Syrians clearly believe that the Israelis may stage air strikes across the lower Bekaa.

The United Nations believes that the Israelis, if they really intended to invade Lebanon again and strike at the Palestinians, could move their forces into guerrilla strongholds by thrusting northwards between the United Nations' contingents south of the Litani and by landing troops on the Lebanese coast to the north. Their own peacekeeping soldiers would then be left holding on to territory far behind the Israeli front line.

That the United Nations' take the threat of a limited war seriously is proved by the recent and discreet visit to Damascus of a senior United Nations official, who spoke to senior ministers in the Syrian Government before returning to Beirut.

"We are trying to cool things down," was all he would say to the reporters who found him in one of the best hotels in Damascus. Perhaps he thought that time was running out.

Ecevit denies insulting town's police chief

From Razi Gurdilek, Ankara, March 1

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Social Democrat Prime Minister of Turkey, today continued his series of court appearances since the army coup in 1980. He appeared before a civilian court charged with insulting the police chief of a central Anatolian town almost two years ago. He has denied the charges.

The incident occurred when he attended the funeral of a local chief of the Republican People's Party at Nevsehir, who had been killed by right-wing terrorists in June, 1980.

Mr Ecevit told the court that the funeral procession had been attacked by a right-wing mob and that it had taken refuge at the town's police headquarters. There he had been informed by the police chief and the governor who, in his presence, had reported to the then Prime Minister over the telephone that nothing unusual was going on and that there was

no reason to adopt any special measures. "I did indeed ask the police chief: 'What kind of a police chief are you anyway?'" he said, adding: "If that question is deemed a crime, it becomes too difficult to protect the dignity of the state, the authority of the state, and the state itself in this country."

The court decided to refer the case to a local court in Nevsehir which will have to decide whether it is worth pursuing the charge.

The general feeling here is that it is unlikely that the case will be pressed in view of the inevitable furore it will cause in Europe where Mr Ecevit is held in high regard.

Renois found

Paris. — Three Renoir paintings, stolen from the home of an Algerian in the Marais district of Paris. Three men were arrested.

Paris wary of army reforms

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 1

The French armed forces are commonly described as the great silent one, but they are not so passive. They have survived the sweeping change which brought the Left to power last May, apparently with little effect — far too little for some of the Government's more radical supporters.

The impatience of the radicals has come to a head in recent weeks, causing agitation and unrest, especially among national servicemen, and bringing demands for a shortening of conscription and the creation of soldiers' committees in regiments and military establishments.

But M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, gave a sharp warning last weekend that there was no question of introducing a class struggle into the armed forces and called for vigilance against those who want to undermine the spirit of defence.

The Socialist Government has to tread carefully in the matter of reforming the armed forces. Measures which seemed possible while the party was in opposition such as the shortening of conscription from one year to six months and which were enshrined in M Mitterrand's electoral promises, have proven impractical since. From both a defence and an economic point of view.

It would be out of the question to have more workers on the unemployment register when France is affected more than its neighbours by unemployment among school leavers. Moreover, the increased threat to French security from the build-up of Soviet armaments to which both the President and his Defence Minister are constantly drawing attention, calls for strengthening, not a weakening, of the spirit of resistance, in their view, is the inspiration.

Last October, M Hernu announced 20 measures affecting leave, pay, and conscription of the ranks about welfare and living conditions. But he is not prepared to embark on a socialization of the armed forces.

Should Britain fall in, p10

Prisoners of conscience



USSR: Alfreds Zarins

By Caroline Moorehead

Alfreds Zarins, a Latvian poet and teacher accused of anti-Soviet activities, has been deported from his home in Aluksne, 200 miles south of Leningrad, to a Siberian labour camp. Mr Zarins, who is 58 and has suffered two heart attacks over the past year, is to serve three years' hard labour.

He was on sick leave from his job teaching Latvian history and literature at a secondary school when he was picked up by the police in April, 1981, in Aluksne and transferred to Riga for interrogation. His arrest came soon after Swedish radio broadcast a poem he had smuggled out to the West called *Is it Allowed?*

A letter he had written to friends in the West in which he discussed the feelings of Latvians under the Soviet regime was also intercepted by the authorities.

Through no official charges were made known, Zarins was accused of keeping "forbidden literature", including books of Latvian history and programmes of Latvian cultural events. In particular he was questioned about his contacts with Latvians living outside the Soviet Union.

Zarins has two teenage children and his family, who have not been informed exactly which labour camp he has been sent to, fear he will not survive the harsh conditions in Siberia.

The caption to a photograph of Mr Andreas Papanastasiou, the Greek Prime Minister, yesterday incorrectly described him as President Papanastasiou.

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India looks afresh at Coca-Cola economics

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 1

It is a matter of pride in India that there has been no such thing as Coca-Cola. As part of their hardening mood of self-reliance in the 1970s, Indians decided that they could do without "the real thing". They now make their own sticky stuff, which looks and tastes much the same.

"Made in India" is more than a label. It is an article of faith in a country which has strong ideas about self-reliance and its own might and abilities. India has emerged as one of the most technologically advanced countries in the developing world.

India looks at the West and says: "anything you can do, we can do, even when it hurts."

That is why a foreign car is a rare sight, and Indians develop strong arm muscles studying the ubiquitous home-built Ambassador car, based on the 1954 Morris Oxford, why the space industry patiently develops at its own pace, rather than feasting on buying more advanced Western equipment; and why foreign electronic goods have the cachet of scarcity.

But today, as part of the change in the management of the economy, the self-reliance policy is taking on a more pragmatic look.

There is no question of a wholesale or sudden shift, but India is beginning to look for more investment from outside sources, and is turning more advanced and competitive in view of a \$3,000m trade deficit.

The change has much to do with Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, who is helping her to implement the growth policy that stands as the economic centrepiece of her administration.

She is taking a closer interest in economic management than she has ever shown at a time which she believes to be a turning-point in India's development.

Red tape strangles expansion

The problems are enormous. India has 700 million people and its population increases by one million a month, helping to erode economic advances. There is no serious or urgent birth control programme. Millions do not have the basic amenities of a safe and reliable water supply system.

India has great reserves of industrial and professional skills, but has weak management, strangling red tape, chronic electricity supply problems and a poor telephone system.

On the other hand, there is a well-developed infrastructure of steel works, coal mines, road, rail and air services and a good postal system.

After the trough of 1979-80, the economy is recovering. Coal output and railway goods traffic is up, and so is power generation, industrial production and investment. Exports are increasing and inflation has been reduced.

The tone of a new government, economic survey optimistic; "encouraging" is the word that some of the papers are using.

Nevertheless, there are still large-scale worries. India is proud of its agricultural revolution and production of foodgrains has increased, but growth is too slow for comfort. This reflects the slump in fertilizer consumption brought about by high prices.

Also, for India, as for many countries, there is the pressure of oil prices. There is an \$8,000m loan from the International Monetary Fund to repay (it was secured to help with the balance of payments), and this may act as a necessary stick for improving performance.

Her strategy now is to invest heavily in steel, fertilizers and manufacturing; to tackle the pressing energy supply question; and to boost the private sector, with an emphasis on export industries, by running a more liberal economic regime.

India's defence spending will rise next year by 11 per cent to \$1,000m rupees (£3,000m) under the new Budget unveiled on Saturday (Reuter reports). The Budget for the financial year 1982-83, starting on April 1 was presented to Parliament by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the Finance Minister.

Mr Mukherjee, who took over the financial portfolio in January, said the increase in the defence budget was owing to what he called the uncertain external environment. He said the overall deficit next year would total 13,650m rupees, down from the revised deficit estimate of 17,000m rupees for the current year. Additional revenue would be raised through higher excise and customs duties on some items.

Begin discounts rift with chief of staff

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 1

Efforts were being made tonight to heal a rift which has opened between the Israeli Government and the country's most senior general over the handling of Jewish militants to the scheduled handback to Egypt of the remaining one-third of occupied Sinai by April 26.

The office of the Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, issued a hasty statement denying reports carried by the state-controlled radio that Mr Begin had threatened Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, the Chief of Staff, with dismissal if he repeated conciliatory statements similar to those he made yesterday to an angry crowd of anti-withdrawal activists in the Sinai.

The dispute comes after signs that many Israeli officers are unhappy at the prospect of having to evict the settlers. A report in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post* said that some soldiers manning the new road blocks were in tears after being branded as traitors by Jewish protesters wearing yellow stars.

General Eitan, who is widely renowned for his hawkish political views, addressed the militants through loudspeakers from the back of an Army jeep. He hinted that he would lobby for the removal of the new Army barriers if the protesters would agree to dismantle barricades which they had erected at the entrance of the town.

An official translation issued through the government press office, quoted Israel's longest serving chief of staff as expressing the hope "that matters can be returned to their former state, and from every expression of his views in a way which will not cause reaction".

The general, whose impromptu speech was televised in Israel's main evening news programme, continued with

an apparent reference to the Prime Minister. "Then I promise you," he told the protesters, "that I, even from here if I can, will go off and speak to whoever has to be spoken to in order that everything returns to its former state."

News of Mr Begin's rebuke was disclosed to the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee today by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister. Only hours before, Mr Sharon had informed a delegation of Sinai settlers that there was no question of the new barricades being removed before April 26.

Earlier today Israeli police arrested more than 20 supporters of the Stop the Withdrawal movement during the first clashes inside the occupied Egyptian territory since it was closed to non-residents at midnight on Friday.

The arrests took place when the security forces moved in to evict more than 150 illegal squatters from one of the agricultural settlements which surround Yamit. Many of those arrested were religious students from Kiryat Arba.

Tomorrow the ruling coalition will face a no confidence motion in the Knesset tabled by the extreme right-wing Tehiya Party, which is bitterly opposed to the new barricades.

Mr Philip Habib, America's special envoy to the Middle East, held a series of talks with senior Israeli Ministers today as he continued his latest round of shuttle diplomacy designed to preserve the fragile seven-month-old ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians.

He described his discussions with Mr Begin as "satisfactory and fruitful." He also met Mr Sharon and Mr Yitzhak Shamir the Foreign Minister. It is understood he now plans to visit Syria before returning again to Lebanon and Israel.

ABORIGINES AGREE MINE DEAL

Darwin, March 1. — Aboriginal leaders announced today that they had reached the basis of an agreement to allow two mining companies to exploit Australia's richest-known uranium deposit at Jabulu in the north of the country.

The agreement was announced by representatives of the traditional aboriginal owners of the land where the uranium is located and by Pancontinental Mining, which has a 65 per cent share in a joint venture set up to develop the vast deposit.

Mr Eric Pratt, a lawyer representing the Northern Land Council, which groups aboriginal leaders in the Northern Territory, said that the agreement was initiated at the weekend after a year of negotiations.

The Jabulu deposit, 150 miles east of Darwin, is estimated to contain more than 200,000 tonnes of uranium oxide. Pancontinental has said the mine is expected to have a life of 25 years, and produce about £11,000m worth of uranium. — Reuter.



A princely mission

The Duke of Edinburgh being welcomed in Delhi by Mrs Indira Gandhi, officials on the preservation of tigers. He was also meeting President Reddy.

capacity as president of the World Wildlife Fund, is to have talks with officials on the preservation of tigers. He was also meeting President Reddy.

Renounce Yalta, America urged

New York. — Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former American national security adviser, says the United States should renounce the Yalta agreement reached by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin in 1945 and seek a better accommodation with the Soviet Union.

He told *Newsweek*: "We should renounce Yalta, which most Europeans, both East and West, view as a symbol of a Soviet-American condominium of Europe. But at the same time — and this is something this Administration has not done — we should hold out more tangible and concrete promises, the possibility of genuine benefits from accommodation."

Five executed — Five men were executed in the western city of Hlad, on various charges including spying for Iraq.

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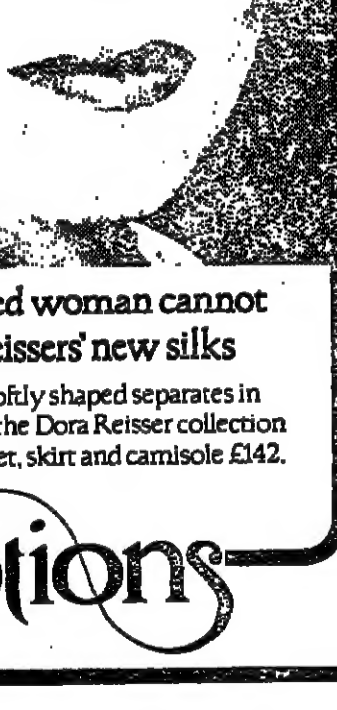
SEX...
COMPAN...



Angela Hewitt, 30,
accessories designer, wearing
a full grey flannel skirt,
with a prairie shirt and
bootlace tie.

'I wear short styles too.'
Photographs by Harry Ken

four inches separate the really signifi



■ The major colour theme for spring divide as sharp as the headlines. The

the fabric department. "Colour Carnival" is the name they give to their richly coloured cotton over checks (from £5.25 a metre), their sizzling moiré taffetas (£4.50 a metre) and bright pure reds, blues and greens. Liberty's famous floral flower prints will find that the herbaceous borders have been overrun by stripes and checks, especially effective when the two are overlaid to give an illusion of texture to one design.

One other promotion is the first of three spring stories which will culminate in exotic Indian fabrics at the time of the V & A's prestige Indian exhibition in April. Liberty started their life as a commercial Emporium (they are now a major Indian promotion) and their association with sweet English florals is relatively recent.

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National Service: should we get fell in?

As the debate reopens, Henry Stanhope examines the case for and against conscription

Nearly 20 years after the last National Serviceman threw away his white flag, Britain remains the only large European power to rely on volunteers for its defence. Should we think again?

Unemployment and street violence have encouraged interest in some form of national service for the young, and at least four opinion polls have recently reflected this. But the emphasis has been on civil, not military, conscription, with a period in the armed forces favoured, if at all, as one of many options, or, as in the scheme shortly to be announced, simply as adventure training for unemployed youngsters.

By and large this suits the services, who, contrary to popular belief, are less than anxious to see every long-haired leftie who walks past a recruiting office and lick him into shape. (Many soldiers might feel the itch individually, but not collectively as a profession.) The image of the services as a happy band of skilled, dedicated volunteers has been expensively cultivated since 1963 and the Ministry of Defence is loath to see it go.

Another reason for Whitehall's lack of enthusiasm for military conscription is the expense. Conscripts are admittedly paid less than regulars (who nowadays are paid very well) but there are usually many more of them — who have not only to be paid but equipped. With main battle tanks, helicopters, and the hardware of an armoured division totalling around £1,000m, there are limits to the size of the ranks.

Attitudes might be different if recruiting was more difficult than it is. But despite reservations during the early years and in spite of continuing difficulties in certain areas, the services have managed reasonably well since the early 1960s. There have been peaks and troughs, the peaks usually reflecting hard times for the economy and insecurity for the services. But as the economy seems to go through more bad times than good, the obvious conclusion may be drawn.

Discontent over pay and conditions in 1977-78 caused recruiting and retention rates to plummet, and in 1980 the RAF pilots, for instance — the forces have not yet caught up. But the



How it's done in Holland: conscripts swarm over a tank during a military exercise

shrinking job market has meant that for most of the time they can now pick and choose among the best applicants — particularly as manpower cuts last year have reduced their own requirements. Ideally they would like to accept more than they need, to fatten up the ranks before the lean times predicted for the mid-1980s, but they are hardly in a position to make do with reluctant heroes.

Yet another argument is that modern weapons are too complex to be handled effectively by "amateurs". For most of those after the second World War, national service meant two years with the colours, and this is still regarded as the minimum if the forces are to benefit from any immediate return on the training. In some Nato countries conscription lasts for less than a year. But in a country like Britain this would mean an enormous turnover in training. In 1957, the year in which Mr Duncan Sandys, as Defence Secretary, announced the imminent end of national service, 150,000 out of 700,000 in the forces were engaged in training or in being trained.

In the 1950s this huge training machine was able to use camps and equipment — admittedly already obsolete — dating from the Second World War. Now, however, a return to national service would mean building more barracks at a cost of up to £25m for each major unit of battalion or regimental size. It is also doubtful if the training areas could accommodate troops on exercises now that the bases and facilities East of Suez have been relinquished.

The accepted wisdom is that this hardly matters anyway because Britain no longer needs large forces. The late Sir Basil Liddell Hart wrote in 1957 that as the army had been 220,000-strong before the War, when the empire had to be policed, it now needed only 140,000.

If there were another war, say the pundits, it would be short and sharp. The allies would look to Britain to contribute quality rather than quantity, disciplined troops who would be able to operate advanced systems while they themselves were threatened by a lethal offensive. For that reason — and others including financial

the emphasis has been on recruiting fewer and retaining them for longer, rather than the kaleidoscopic effect of national service.

A proposal two years ago by Sir Hugh Fraser, MP, that a national register should be compiled of those eligible for military/civil call-up in a crisis met with little enthusiasm at Westminster, and still less in Whitehall. Officials argued that it was politically too sensitive, particularly as it would involve deciding at the outset who would be exempt and which occupations would be reserved.

"The workload", said one civil servant, "would be enormous." But should the wisdom be so readily accepted? Predictions that "the next war" would be short and sharp have been notoriously wrong at least twice this century. Even the war between Iran and Iraq has not been as short as most experts thought. The size of the British Army would be slightly more than doubled on mobilization of the reserves to around 300,000. But that represents all the available trained manpower, and if the war did last more than a month or so there is not the machinery — or

even a register — to manufacture any more.

The most powerful argument in favour of national service is that it does create a larger reserve. The Army, which would be the service most concerned, argues that within six years of leaving the colours a soldier's knowledge and skills, especially acquired and are outdated or forgotten. But national service would mean that he would at least have a feeling for what the Army is all about, and would be more trainable if the argument arose.

There is also the argument that every young man (and woman) has a duty to feel involved in the defence of his/her country — as in Israel. That military life has a disciplinary effect on recalcitrant youth is less supportable. It is few people in the Army want to see their service treated as a kind of reform school for tearaways.

There is no disputing, however, that the services are a reservoir of practical skills which could benefit more youths than is the case. The standard of apprenticeship training in the forces is admirable, and Dr Alec Dickson, director of Community Service Volunteers, holds the personal view that NCOs could contribute a great deal by leading teams of young people on voluntary work.

In fact the Army, at first rather cautiously, drew up several schemes which would have young people under the Youth Opportunities Programme last year. These foundered because the Army could not afford to fund them on its own and because there were political objections to official resources being used in this way. However, the Ministry of Defence is expected to announce this week an adventure training scheme for the young.

Strong objections would be raised to any form of compulsory military conscription. Given scepticism among the armed forces themselves and in the Ministry of Defence, there seems little likelihood that Britain will put the clock back 19 years. But should any form of national service be adopted — and there would seem to be growing support for it — there are persuasive arguments for making a period in one of the services an available option. The benefit could be mutual.

Britain, facing another caning from Europe

For a government to suffer the occasional defeat before the European Court of Human Rights may be thought a misfortune. But to lose with the regularity of the United Kingdom is beginning to look like carelessness. The Scottish corporal punishment case decided last week is the eighth reverse for the Government since 1975, far and away the largest tally among the contracting countries.

Numbers alone can of course mislead. More does not necessarily mean worse. Some countries, like Turkey, do not allow their citizenry the right of individual petition to Strasbourg. More significantly, about two thirds of the contracting countries have incorporated the European Convention into their domestic law, thereby giving their own courts a prior opportunity to uphold complaints. Had the UK also incorporated it, it is just possible that some of the eight cases might have been settled in domestic proceedings.

But if the British judiciary had accepted the more limited interpretations of the convention invariably urged by the Government, international censure would merely have been postponed, not avoided. Apologists for Britain's record point to the special problems caused by a "colonial legacy". On immigration law, successive governments, the argument goes, have been caught between the requirements of the convention and a reactionary public opinion.

A small country which has had the temerity to claim nearly a thousand million subjects has obviously experienced problems for itself, but compliance with the convention never in fact entailed large-scale immigration. Constitutional arrangements within the British Isles have by contrast occasionally been a source of genuine difficulty. The UK Government is stuck with responsibility for the Isle of Man under the convention without a tradition of wielding political power on the island.

It has not made the Government's life any easier that British pressure groups have chosen to take the convention seriously. The National Council for Civil Liberties, the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, the Freedom Association, and MIND, the mental health charity, have all been associated with successful applications. European test cases have provided valuable opportunities to achieve otherwise elusive reforms.

The eight decisions of the court so far recorded against the UK touch on diverse issues: a prisoner's right to communicate with a lawyer, contempt of court law (*The Sunday Times* case), "interrogation in depth" in Northern Ireland, judicially ordered birching in the Isle of Man, closed-shop legislation, Ulster's homosexuality laws, the Home Secretary's powers over restricted mental patients and now parental choice on corporal punishment in schools.

Apart from these rulings by the court, many other cases which have not reached a final adjudication have none the less made their mark. In the East African Asians cases the commission found the Commonwealth Immigration Act 1968 to be in violation.

Among forthcoming cases a major block of applications concerned with Prison Rules and obstruction of prisoners' correspondence come up soon for decision by the court. The Government has already conceded on certain issues raised. Another case questions the legitimacy of telephone tapping outside any statutory framework.

After a recent West German decision it would be surprising if the Government escaped unscathed. The discriminatory immigration rule on marriage widely forecast to be in breach of the convention when it was introduced by the Government, will be tested by several current applications. In the field of mental health, cases recently lodged challenge the failure of extend legal aid to mental health review tribunals, a delay of 4½ months in setting up a tribunal hearing and the revision of the Mental Health Act which can block a patient's access to the courts.

On the record so far, neither the Labour nor Conservative Parties could plausibly claim any special respect for the convention. The closed-shop case was the only instance of a violation associated with a piece of party political legislation. Both parties have been implicated in discriminatory immigration law. Both have had ample opportunity to change offending aspects of prison rules or mental health law, but have done nothing until forced, and even then no more than they felt strictly required to do.

Almost by definition the issues arising under the convention tend to be provocative. The kinds of reforms necessary to ensure compliance are frequently opposed by well-organized groups. Maximalist fight to retain corporal punishment as a penal measure, teachers resist its removal as a disciplinary measure. Ulstermen argue against the "Save Ulster from Sodomy" petition (though opinion polls in the province show an even split).

The Prison Officers Association opposes any relaxation in censorship. The Confederation of Health Service Employees and the Royal College of Psychiatrists strive to keep barriers to patients' litigation. Political parties in power prefer not to arouse opposition of these kinds whatever their views on the justice of the cause.

Decisions of the European court can provide both a spur and a shield. It is much easier to introduce reforms when it can all be blamed on a collection of foreign jurists.

Something of this ambivalence is captured by the Scottish "lawyer" case where the Government told the commission that it was "proceeding by means of negotiations and discussions with education authorities to achieve consensus on the matter of abolition of corporal punishment" (although it simultaneously argued that the cases should be dismissed because the parents could have sent their children to fee-paying schools which eschewed corporal punishment). The argument was advanced during the currency of the last Labour government.

On some issues, therefore, the facilities of the European Commission and court are providing a convenient form of arbitration. On others the rulings of the court are establishing genuinely new remedies and challenging tenaciously held positions. Four years ago one legal commentator wrote: "The period when the judges of the court moved with great caution, lest they forfeited the confidence of member states and thus jeopardized the future of the convention, appears to be at an end."

The implications of this change of mood are only gradually sinking in. They might have surprised those who so confidently supported the UK's ratification in 1951.

Oliver Thorold
The author is a barrister and specialist in human rights.
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The risks in pushing gifted children too hard

Last October, Chi-Bin Chien, a 15-year-old American, started postgraduate studies in physics at Cambridge. Next year, Ruth Lawrence, 12, will be an undergraduate at Oxford at the age of 12. Is it good for a child, emotionally, socially or psychologically, to be encouraged to leap so far ahead of his chronological peers?

One Oxford don, Dr Matthew Ginsberg, who is a mathematics tutor at Brasenose, is so concerned at the potential damage done to children by academic acceleration that he has written to the 120 mathematics dons at Oxford, seeking their support for a motion to be put before the university's congregation, which would ban admission to Oxford of anyone under 16, save in very, very rare cases. Cambridge already stipulates that undergraduates will not normally be admitted before they are 18. There appears to be no similar regulation governing the admission of postgraduates, however.

Dr Ginsberg, whose mother is the head of the Gifted Children Society in New Jersey, feels he suffered greatly as a child by jumping just one year at school when he was seven. He was already small for his age, and being catapulted into a class of unknown, even bigger children, made him withdraw completely.

"It was terrible. I couldn't come close to competing with the others in non-academic areas, and I became totally introverted. I think it essential, especially for very bright children, to have as normal a development as possible. Acceleration by one

year might be all right for some, but I have not been impressed by any of the super-accelerated people I have known. Such children will doubtless do very well academically at Oxford, but what will she be like after she's left? There have been virtually no follow-up studies conducted to leap so far ahead of his chronological peers?

In the United States, most gifted children are kept together with children of their own age. The States are more advanced than Britain both in the identification of gifted children, but most of that provision tends to be in the form of "enrichment" programmes outside school hours where children are able to engage in depth in very, very rare cases. The aim is definitely not to get children to rush ahead with what they are being taught in school.

A notable exception to that approach is a programme, called the study of mathematics, which Dr Stanley, a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, has been running for the past ten years. Dr Stanley seeks out mathematically gifted children at the age of 11 or 12, and then provides some of them with intensive tuition at the university.

Chi-Bin Chien, now at Churchill College, Cambridge, is one of the products of Dr Stanley's programme. Chi-Bin, as his name might suggest, is born of Chinese parents. His father was brought up in mainland China, but moved to Taiwan to go to university where he



Chi-Bin Chien: a curious lack of excitement

met and married Chi-Bin's mother. In 1960, they emigrated to the United States. Chi-Bin's father is now professor of physics at Johns Hopkins. "Ah, that's why he is so brilliant at physics", you say. "Like Ruth Lawrence or Nigel Short, the chess prodigy, he was coached by his father." However Chi-Bin denies that he ever had much assistance from his father, beyond a helping hand in the evenings with his homework, which any parent might give. Throughout my interview

with him, he seemed at pains to emphasize his normality in all respects, other than simply being quicker than most in picking up what he had to learn.

"People keep asking how I did what I've done. But I don't know how my brain worked either. I can tell you what I did, but not how I did it. I don't remember when I learnt to read and write; not particularly young. I don't think I certainly wasn't doing calculus at six or anything like that. I don't think I worked much harder than anyone else at school. Holidays? Oh, I did normal things — going to the beach, playing bridge, reading; mostly science fiction. I'm afraid I read too much science fiction. I still do."

Chi-Bin was brought up speaking English and Chinese. He still speaks both fluently, though he has difficulty in reading or writing Chinese. At four, he was sent to a private nursery school, before going to the local public (ie. state) school two years later. By the time he was seven he was already finding the work boring. So he was taken away and sent to a private school in Baltimore, which encouraged acceleration of bright pupils into higher classes.

By the time he was nine, he was in a class three years ahead of other pupils his age. "I guess I was one of the best students in pretty well everything, save athletics and art, he admits with some reluctance. A year later, his father put him in touch with Dr Stanley, and he started receiving extra mathematics tuition from David Meyer, a gifted 15-year-old mathematician who was then in his second year at Johns Hopkins and who later became a Churchill postgraduate scholar at Cambridge.

When he was 11, Chi-Bin took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), the standardized admission test to American universities, which is normally taken at the age of 17 or 18. Chi-Bin scored a remarkable 710 of a possible 800 in the verbal SAT, and 750 in mathematics, one of the highest scores for both tests in the whole of the United States.

A year later, he went straight into the second year at Johns Hopkins (the normal undergraduate course lasts four years in the United States), graduating with a 3.6 grade average (the scale is between a B+ and an A-). "I wasn't all that good, but I didn't really care a lot about grades. I got a C in inorganic chemistry — it didn't bother me," he says.

The apparent nonchalance, accentuated by the American accent, verges on polite boredom. There is a curious lack of excitement about everything. Two years ago, he went back for the first time with his family to mainland China, where his success can be traced back to AD700. How did it affect him? "It was interesting," he replies. "But it didn't really have a big impact." Is he pleased to be at Cambridge? "Um, yeah." Does he have any special ambitions? "Not really. Does he feel strongly about anything, I ask in desperation. "Well," after some thought, "I guess I got angry about Reagan cutting the

science budget and the space programme."

In his free time, he goes to films, plays bridge, attends a science fiction discussion group, and goes to ballroom dancing classes. Last year, he went to a creative writing class, where he met a lot of fun.

Does his age (he is now 16) affect him much? "I certainly feel younger, but I don't think it makes that much difference. I usually socialize with people who are my intellectual peers rather than my chronological peers." Girl-friend? "I don't have any, but that doesn't mean I'm not interested. Girls feel the age gap, and I feel a bit inhibited. That is one of the drawbacks."

His studies at Cambridge involve research into the application of scanning electron microscopy to fossils. His tutors are well pleased both with the quality of his work and with the ease with which he gets on with his much older colleagues.

"People are just not aware of his age," Mr Richard Whitaker, tutor for postgraduate admissions at Churchill says. "His file from Johns Hopkins was full of endless references to his extraordinary maturity."

Talking to Chi-Bin, one would have thought, but for his looks, that he was 10 or even 20 years older. Despite his apparent relaxed manner, however, he gave the impression of being terribly constrained. There was no sparkle, no freshness. And one wondered whether Dr Stanley's tutelage did not perhaps have a point.

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Learning to laugh away the bomb

Donald Reeves, the rector of St James's, Piccadilly, says his is the only church in London concerning itself with issues of security and survival. Reeves was Church of England obsequies at the World Council of Churches hearing on nuclear weapons in Amsterdam last November. "I was quite ashamed. We are so sleepy," he says.

In an attempt to wake things up he has organized a series of Wednesday lunch-time lectures in which speakers of various denominations will consider the churches' contribution to the peace movement.

This week the Bishop of St Andrew's Scotland, the Right Rev Michael Hare Duke, tackles "the nuclear obsession", which he says is "demonic". Talking of the balance of power makes us think in terms of war when we should start from a premise of peace. The Bishop promises to offer his audience "nuclear phrase fabricators and other devices in high aid us escape from our nuclear obsession by laughter".

Next, an alternative defence policy devised by the Right Rev John Robinson, dean of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Spleen on Sunday
John Osborne, the playwright who said most television plays are "dramatized journalism about insanity or anorexia in high society or one-parent families

in inner cities", is to be the Mail on Sunday's first television critic. Osborne, 42, has been writing for months or so "with any luck" according to the editor, Bernard Shrimley, "we will find someone equally celebrated and stimulating to take his place."

Angry Young Man in the 1950s after *Look Back in Anger* opened at the Royal Court. His anger has not diminished over the years but the targets have changed.

In 1961 *Tribune* published his famous diatribe, *Damn You, England!* and in 1980 industrial tribunals, rapacious ex-wives and *The Guardian's* women's page came under memorable assault in the *Evening Standard*.

Class of '84
William Rodgers, now a joint leader of the SDP, says that his book, *The Politics of Change*, to be published on March 22, was conceived while idling in his garden as long ago as 1978. It is already available at cut price to SDP members.

Rodgers says the book is "both a testament of personal conviction and an analysis of what has

THE TIMES DIARY



Airwick, the company which has been killing odours for years, now alleges that Britons are in danger of losing their sense of smell. Without rehearsing its own role in the matter it says "nature's more pleasant fragrances have been

deleted from the sterile atmosphere of high-rise flats and city dwellings. Inner-city children are not sure they would recognize the fragrance of fresh blossoms or honeysuckle". The answer, it suggests, is not to go out and buy fruit blossom or honeysuckle, but yet more Airwick, this time in fashion fragrances copying natural themes. It all smells a bit off to PH.

entrance to Wellington Barracks last week of marvelled at the exemplary stiffness of the three guardsmen outside, only to realize they were life-size plywood cut-outs.

Making a closer examination at the weekend, I found even the cutouts had been cut. Their number had been reduced to one. The truth is they only risk one outside when it's raining. Otherwise the day might soon arrive when visitors could pass the Guards' souvenir and bookshop without seeing a soldier of any sort.

Troubled Taffs
Real guardsmen cannot brave the rain either. The Welsh Guards at Porthcovey could not line up for their St David's Day leeks from the Prince of Wales because of a downpour. The Prince charitably left a box of the vegetables for distribution later.

On the Rhine, the First Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, were obliged to field a German

substitute mascot for their St David's Day parade. Billy, their own angora, disgraced himself a fortnight ago by breaking off one of his long horns in a fit of sexual frustration.

To lead the parade, the fusiliers borrowed a more commonplace, but two-horned, goat who is ordinarily mascot to Cologne football club. The Welshmen nicknamed him Kaiser Bill.

In creases
The departure of our cricketing heroes to have their pockets stuffed with South African gold recalls uneasy memories of the England test team's fancy dress Christmas party in India. The theme was heroes.

While Botham — who has firmly repelled South African blandishments — went as Geoffrey Boycott, Boycott dressed as Prince Ranjitsingh. Less diplomatically, John Embrey, the Middlesex off-spinner who helped persuade George to make the trip, went as a Ku Klux Klansman.

Nuns redeemed
The Guildhall School of Music is salvaging Poulenc's opera *Dogues of the Carmelites*, which was to have been staged at Sadler's Wells last year. The producer, Graeme Conway, ran

the editor of *The Times*, John Thaddeus Delane. It was addressed to him not at Printing House Square but at his house nearby in Serpentine Inn, Fleet Street. What it contained, we do not know, though it might either have been from *The Times* man in Paris (William Howard Russell) who opposed the opposition the following month with the news that the French would capitulate) or one of a number of pleas to let those in Britain know the sender was well.

We do not know if that the message arrived late. The balloon came down in the Prussian lines.

Unfair share?

My colleague, Simon Winchester of the *The Sunday Times*, has provoked the hitherto unheeded of a civic disturbance in Basingstoke. Writing in the authoritative *Radio Times* about his television programme last week on rioting, Winchester said: "Basingstoke had its share of trouble last summer."

Roger Morris, the mayor of Basingstoke, is furious and has gone to the charge demanding correction. His town, he says, was one of the blessed few which were trouble-free. Sensibly Winchester has fled to India.

Par avion choud
We are more concerned at present with the future than the past at the *Times*, but there is a fascinating item concerning the future of the newspaper in a stamp sale at Sotheby's later this month.

It is a miniature wrapper sent in December 1870 from besieged Paris — initially by balloon — to

F. Lee Bailey, the lawyer who unsuccessfully defended *Patti Hearst* on bank robbery charges, was arrested for alleged drunken driving in San Francisco. He pleaded with passers-by to note the police brutality during his arrest and to telephone a lawyer and to accompany him to the police station as witnesses.

As a pessimist I don't believe the banks can survive the short term, and I don't think they will be rescued. They will be restructured. The Gyllis scheme to have the Government buy back the banks to lend a hand and at lower interest rates is the most desperate and unattractive of all the proposals.

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NO BALL

"I think it will be treated as one of total deception", said the Minister of Sport, Mr Neil Macfarlane, yesterday, referring to the action of a dozen English cricketers in touring South Africa. He was right: that is at issue is not a question of judgment but a matter of trust. There are certainly two points of view about the merits of resuming sporting contacts with South Africa at this time. It can be argued that there is no longer a case for continuing to ban South Africa from international competition in those sports where outside pressure has led to people of different races playing with and against each other, that to maintain a boycott in such circumstances is not to protest against apartheid as a political instrument against the wider evil of apartheid in society. It may also be argued, less controversially, that it would be an infringement of personal rights for any government or sporting authority to forbid anyone, as an individual, to play wherever he wishes.

But neither of these arguments can be deployed to justify this tour. These cricketers are not going as a bunch of carefree, if irresponsible, individuals in search of some enjoyable play in a

pleasing climate. They are being paid large sums of money to compete against representative South African teams, who will receive international caps for their endeavours. That is in direct contravention of the policy of the Test and County Cricket Board, which wrote to every first-class player in England towards the end of last summer warning them that if they played in any international or representative match in South Africa they would jeopardize their chances of being selected for England.

If that policy is mistaken it should be changed: if it is changed it should be done so openly. The worst way for it to be challenged is for players to slip out of England secretly, "playing it very close to their chests", as the TCCB spokesman put it with sour restraint.

The impression of deception is all the greater because of the assurances that were given before this winter's tour of India was allowed to proceed. The Indian Government was wrong in the first instance to raise objections to Geoffrey Boycott and Geoffrey Cook as members of the English team because they had played or coached in South Africa. But to ally Indian suspicions the TCCB

emphasized its disapproval of representative tours of South Africa and the two players publicly expressed their opposition to "the principle and system of apartheid".

Boycott's words have now been made to appear as no more than a gesture of convenience; and there will inevitably be doubts over the sincerity of the TCCB's assurance, even though the board has in fact acted impeccably throughout. This is the most serious aspect because the thoughtless or selfish attitude of this touring party will put in jeopardy the future structure of Test cricket. There could all too easily be a division, between the white and non-white cricketing nations, which would be tragic for the development of the game and a denial of its spirit.

The correct course now would be for the TCCB to live up to the spirit of its earlier warning and ban these players from selection for England. However, to go further, as some would like, and bar them from county cricket would be wrong. But to do less would almost certainly lead to the cancellation of this summer's tours by India and Pakistan, and quite possibly to the end of Test cricket as we have known it.

SHIPS AND SHARES AT KNOCKDOWN PRICES

Amersham, HMS Invincible, B1 Bathgate — taxpayers' assets in all sectors seem to be on sale at knockdown prices just now. There is a buyer's market for such merchandise, and there is a sense in which each one of us is made poorer by the scramble to sell. But it is akin to the sense in which the Crown Jewels and the Tate Gallery's Turners might be entered into a balance sheet of national financial assets. Assets count economically only to the extent that they can be exchanged for something useful, and too much preoccupation with paper values can be an obstacle to making them work in the most effective way. The sacrifice may be worth while, if it is made for clear and realisable ends.

None of the three loss leaders look wholly justified in these terms on present knowledge. They are not comparable except in the broadest sense, and the case of the Invincible obviously stands apart from those of the two state-backed industries. But the fundamental question here too is whether the investment tied up in the ship can be used more advantageously now it is free. The sale has realised the same sum as it took to build it, and Mr John Nott argues that three smaller vessels can be

built with the sum, and that they will be more useful. It is true that the case for building the three ships of the Invincible class was a debatable one at the time. But once built, they had a value as a set. With three ships, two can be guaranteed in service most of the time, with one available at all times. The value of the two remaining carriers will be impaired because they will not be able to provide this continuous service, and this will be so however good Mr Nott's replacements may be if or when they join the fleet.

There are also important differences between Amersham and Bathgate. The problems involved in a share are not the same as those involved in a disposal of company assets. There was evidently a gross miscalculation of the value of Amersham, which has left the Exchequer £24m poorer than it might have been. It is essential to find more reliable means of predicting the demand for shares before more substantial public sector share sales are attempted. The alternative of going for tender needs to be seriously considered. But the object of the exercise was only partly to realize funds. The sales policy is based on an ideological commitment to the principle that wider ownership of shares in government-dominated enterprises is healthy in itself. The process

of going to tender would almost inevitably involve the assets falling into the hands of a few large buyers, not a wide range of investors. The embarrassing affair is a reminder that such sales cannot take place in conditions where straightforward market forces operate, and the Government needs to be clear what its motives are when planning them. But at £24m it is an expensive reminder.

The possible cost of the Bathgate sale is reported to be still greater. It appears that the sales were completed without public advertising or bidding, and other obscure points remain to be clarified. In principle it is to a great extent a matter of commercial judgment in the running of a business how assets should be disposed of. British Leyland has been under great pressure to rationalize its affairs in the past two years, and has made impressive strides towards efficiency in a short time. The problem of control and accountability in publicly owned industries is a perennial one, and the present system, where accountability is mediated through an aloof Government minister, is too remote. It should not be possible for managerial mistakes to be fudged and concealed in retrospect, but unless managerial discretion is to be a mockery, there has to be room to make mistakes.

Loans for industry

From Mr George Bowen
Sir, I was delighted to read George Brock's article on investment and interest rates in industry (February 19). I hope it initiates the detailed discussion which I have called for before in your columns.

The short-term view taken by the clearing banks is a disaster for British manufacturing industry. An individual can get a low-interest, 25-year loan to buy a house but not to expand and modernize a manufacturing company.

The banks might argue that the profitability of British manufacturing industry is so low that it is not in their shareholders' interest to take a long-term view. I believe that this merely hides the lack of long-term planning and industrial expertise in our banks and the whole nation to have a viable, modern, employment-creating manufacturing sector.

Many people enjoy working in small manufacturing units. If we modernize and improve productivity and competitiveness the markets and the profits are there, even in a recession. But we are in a Catch-22 situation. We cannot improve profitability without investment, and to borrow short term at present interest rates (which with all the personal guarantees demanded by the banks) would be a nonsense. For while many small firms with new investment could become stable and reliable employers, they are very unlikely to produce the short-term high profitability that other less worthwhile sectors of the economy can achieve if only because they are often in a highly competitive situation which keeps prices down.

I am a pessimist. I don't believe that the banks can or will voluntarily change their attitudes in the short term, and I doubt whether they, or the Civil Service, will be persuaded to the Gylis scheme. In my opinion the Government should direct the banks to lend a small percentage of their funds long term and at lower interest rates to the most deserving firms in the manufacturing and other employment-creating sectors. This could

be merely an expansion of the existing, much-trumpeted and barely discernible business development loan schemes that some of them run at present. The cost should be borne by the banks, and, if necessary, by higher interest rates for other areas of lending.

It should be left to the banks to ensure that the loans are used for the proper purpose. This, after all, is no more than German and Japanese banks do now. It is in the long-term interest of the shareholders of the banks and of the whole nation to have a viable, modern, employment-creating manufacturing sector.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BOWEN,
Mendham Bowen Limited,
45 Blackfriars Road, SE1.

The Pope's visit

From the Reverend William Leah
Sir, Anglicans can only rejoice with their Roman Catholic friends in the theme of the Seven Sacraments as the theme for the Pope's visit. The preface to the Alternative Service Book (letter, February 23) is better understood as expressing the hope that the revised liturgy of the Church of England does not deviate from that simple Catholicism which provides the doctrinal basis of the Book of Common Prayer.

There are, it is true, the two sacraments which Anglicans generally hold to be necessary for salvation, but quite clearly provision is made, one way or another, for the other five, including, in the ASB, the blessing of the oils. Any of us who have been confirmed, married, ordained, absolved, anointed will be only too glad to rejoice in the sacramental ministry of the Church, whether Roman, Anglican or Orthodox. It would be better to hope that this historic visit would prompt the Church of England not only to endorse its own full acceptance of traditional sacramental life, but also either to delete those of the 39 Articles which are open to misrepresentation and

give offence to Catholics, whether RCs or ACs, or to abolish them for good. That would be the best possible ecumenical gesture.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM LEAH,
Hawthorn Vicarage,
Kent.
February 23.

Ethnic schooling

From Mr A. M. Housley
Sir, Councillor Croft's assertion (February 19) that opposition to the sale of an Ealing high school to the Church of England was limited to "a few dozen vociferous ideologues" is not true. The matter aroused considerable local interest, was fully covered by the local press, and was the subject of a public consultation programme where the motives of the vast majority of people signing the canvass returns were not clearly identified.

The original admissions policy had to be scrapped as it contravened the Race Relations Act 1976, and the existing policy offers preferment to children of Anglican parents, in a multi-racial, multi-faith borough where 20 per cent of the population is a member of an ethnic minority group.

Most people would probably accept that it is the purpose of education to provide the skills and knowledge for their adult life, but it is equally arguable that the way this desirable aim is realised should not intensify the barriers of class, race and religion.

The sale of state schools to those with sectarian interest and selective admissions would appear to further this undesirable effect.

TV broadcasting by satellite

From Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for East Grinstead (Conservative)

Sir, It is not quite fair of Lord Aylesstone (February 24) to suggest that decisions on DBS (direct broadcasting satellite) may shortly be taken "without any public debate". The Home Office study carried out in 1980 involved a wide-ranging process of consultation with interested organizations, and the publication of its report last May afforded a further opportunity for public opinion to express itself.

It may be, as Lord Aylesstone suggests, that in an ideal world decisions on DBS should not be taken without prolonged further discussion. But that would inevitably mean saying goodbye to the "modest but early start" — perhaps one or two broadcasting channels by 1986 — which the Government seems to favour, for unless early decisions are taken, and contracts entered into, a satellite system will not be ready in time. That would be a serious loss to British industry and to the telecommunications services which the satellite will carry, as well as to broadcasting. The French and the Germans are going ahead and we also must lead.

The fact is that the BBC has plans ready for two DBS channels. They will need to convince the public that they really can do this extension of their services even if one of these channels is financed by a system of pay TV. Parliament and the courts cannot be expected automatically to agree to make up the difference by a substantial increase in the licence fee.

The IBA and commercial companies, for wholly understandable reasons, are not so far advanced. To wait until they are would jeopardize the "modest early start" and the benefits it will bring. But even if the BBC were allocated two initial channels, that would not rule out opportunities for participation by the IBA and commercial companies on other channels if they got ahead with their plans and the Government created the legislative framework for it. Indeed that is what I hope will happen if we are not going to throw away one of the most exciting prospects not just for television but for British industry and telecommunications as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH,
Chairman, Conservative Party Parliamentary Media Committee, House of Commons.
February 26.

From the Managing Director of Yorkshire Television

Sir, So the BBC is going to fund one of its two satellite channels by subscription. This presumably will be the channel that will show most feature films.

Clearly, these will be films not available on BBC 1 or BBC 2. In this way the BBC's relationship with the licence-holder will alter dramatically.

The millions who pay their annual licence fee will become second-class citizens at a stroke. They will be denied the attractions that will have to be available to the subscription-paying first-class citizens on the satellite channel. In this way, the BBC will destroy its relationship with the licence-holder, a prized contractual link that has existed for nearly 60 years.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL FOX, Managing Director, Yorkshire Television,
The Television Centre,
Leeds.
March 1.

Westminster rates

From the Leader of Westminster City Council

Sir, Anyone reading Baron Phillips's article (February 22) could be forgiven for assuming that Westminster City Council has acted quite irresponsibly in imposing a 20 per cent rate increase on its ratepayers.

The London boroughs face demands upon them by the GLC, the ILEA and the Metropolitan Police which they have no alternative but to collect.

May I state clearly three facts: 1. Westminster City Council has reduced its own rate call by £2,500,000.

2. Obligatory collections for other authorities have risen by £56m.

3. Pressure is being brought to bear on County Hall by the WARS (Westminster Against Rateless Spending) campaign, which this city council fully supports.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COBOLD,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.
February 22.

Health partnership

From Dr R. A. Sturge

Sir, Mr Seldon's letter (February 17) is based on the false premise that standards in the NHS have declined over the past 10 years. Everyone concerned with the provision of health care in the UK knows that this is not so and that, on the contrary, standards in all areas have consistently risen, though by no means as fast or as high as we would have liked.

Parents and European Court judgment

From Mrs Valerie Riches

Sir, An important issue is raised by the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in favour of parental rights in connection with corporal punishment of children in schools.

In the early 1970s some Danish parents appealed to the European Court about the compulsory sex education of their children by the Danish state. Their case rested upon the same Article 2 of the European Treaty of Human Rights as the recent case — i.e. when the state assumes the teaching burden, it must respect the right of parents "to ensure such education and teaching is in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions".

The sex education in Danish state schools was of a nature which was in clear violation of the parent's private religious and philosophical convictions. Yet the European Court (report, December 9, 1976) judged against the parents.

It would appear that the European Court's concern about parental rights is not extended to the punishment of immature and inexperienced minds, only to their children's bodies.

It is a pity that sex education becomes compulsory when it is introduced into the curriculum of a school. There is no legal right of withdrawal, a right enshrined in the 1944 Education Act in respect of religious education, which is an analogous subject.

There would be less need to worry about this were it not for the fact that some sex education in this country has reached the level the Danish parents were so concerned about.

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE RICHES,
National Hon Secretary,
The Responsible Society,
Wickham,
Buckinghamshire.
February 26.

From Mr Harry Greenwood, MP for Ealing North (Conservative)

Sir, Having successfully spent 12 years in a King's Cross 1,100 comprehensive and another seven at a mixed comprehensive of 2,000-plus in Lewisham where, in each case, I had responsibility for school discipline among other things, I am most interested in the European Court decision on corporal punishment. Your own leader refers to the matter today (February 26).

School discipline is slipping badly all over the country and we need to be restored from Strasbourg, Whitehall or County Hall. As recommended by the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education says: "The head, the staff and governors of a school should be responsible for school discipline." They should be allowed to apply reasonable and proper sanctions when children misbehave without being subjected to

blanket bans or directives on suspensions, expulsions, corporal punishment or anything else. It would, of course, be necessary for them to carry the support of their children's parents in all that they do.

Schools must be allowed diverse approaches to discipline as a reflection of the diverse attitudes of the parents whose children attend them. Pressure for the reverse of this is what has brought many schools to their present low ebb in this area.

Yours etc.,
HARRY GREENWAY,
House of Commons.
February 26.

From Mrs Jennifer Radice

Sir, Why is it that, as implied in the final paragraph of your leader of February 26 about corporal punishment, those of us who (like myself) oppose it are almost invariably regarded as left-wing softies?

I am regarded by my fellow Islington primary school parents as a self-confessed right-winger in educational matters, since I support such unfashionable concepts as academic excellence, segregation by ability and competition between children. But I am unapologetically opposed to whacking, since it clearly does nothing to encourage the wrongdoer to mend his ways but instead arouses simmering and enduring resentment against school, society and the world in general. The events in St Saviour's in Toxteth prove my point.

My method for dealing with disruptive children would be (a) tangible rewards for effort, as opposed to result and, just as important, (b) rapid and if necessary permanent suspension from the school for the persistently disruptive who make the lives of motivated children a misery. If this had been done at Toxteth, the sad events of this week would most probably never have taken place.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER RADICE,
43 Highbury Park, N5.
February 26.

From the Headmaster of Highbury Grove School

Sir, In the light of the Strasbourg judgment (report, February 26) will it now be possible for parents whose philosophical conviction it is that corporal punishment should be employed in schools to insist upon the state making this provision available?

Or is it the view of six of the seven gentlemen of Strasbourg that other people's (in this country, the overwhelming majority's) philosophical convictions are simply irrational prejudices?

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE NORCROSS,
Highbury Grove School,
Highbury New Park, N5.
February 27.

Naval policy

From Mr P. J. Freeman

Sir, The sale of HMS Invincible to the Royal Australian Navy highlights the dangers inherent in the present Government's policy of diverting resources away from the United Kingdom's maritime forces.

Whatever doubts the Secretary of State for Defence or his advisers may have as to the effectiveness of the Royal Navy's ASW (anti-submarine warfare) carriers in service, it is a fact that the Royal Navy's ASW carriers in service are an admission, albeit a somewhat grudging one, that they are valuable additions to the Fleet. Indeed, their proponents would argue that the combination of Sea Harrier aircraft and Sea King helicopters with extensive command and communications facilities gives these ships a unique capability.

The Secretary of State's reasons, as given to the House of Commons for maintaining only two ASW carriers, are revealing. On February 23, Mr Nott, having referred to the limited naval resources available, said:

"We cannot afford to deploy the air defence and anti-submarine escorts that would be necessary to protect the carriers. Therefore, it is better to keep two in service rather than three and send the rest to sea in the frigates force (Official Report February 23, 1982, vol 18 p 734)."

However, he went on to express his own belief that no government would order ASW carriers today and it may be inferred from earlier speeches of the Secretary of State that he believes the ASW carriers are now vulnerable to the latest Soviet weapon systems such as the Oscar-class submarine.

There are grounds for thinking that the policy adopted represents a dangerous compromise. If the Secretary of State is correct in his fears as to the vulnerability of these ships, then it is not at all clear that even the

two carriers in service can be adequately protected with the weapon systems currently available to the Royal Navy, and accordingly none of them should be retained.

If on the other hand, the Secretary of State's fears are groundless then it would have represented a more efficient use of resources to maintain all three carriers in service, thus permitting two to be operational, rather than to maintain two, of which only one would normally be available. When viewed in this light the fact that the Royal Navy is apparently unable to deploy sufficient escorts to protect two carriers is a sad reflection of the folly of the Government's decision to reduce the Royal Navy's surface fleet to a maximum of 42 operational escorts.

The Secretary of State was asked in the House of Commons to explain his concept of anti-submarine warfare and how we are to meet our responsibilities in view of the grave doubts surrounding the Government's policy, the public is entitled to such an explanation as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
12 Tenson Avenue,
Cambridge.

From Mr O. T. P. Carne

Sir, There seems something paradoxical about not being able to afford the anti-submarine and anti-aircraft defence of three anti-submarine aircraft carriers. Perhaps your Defence Correspondent could discuss the logic of even keeping two rather than scrapping the three.

Incidentally, if the Royal Navy cannot defend three aircraft carriers, what are the prospects for other shipping?

Yours truly,
O. T. P. CARNE,
16 Elmwood,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire.

Regrettably, although Mr Seldon's reasoning is wrong, his conclusion is correct. Market forces are encouraging the expansion of private medicine, at a time when public funds are in short supply, but we must not be fooled into believing that this will ever be other than to the detriment of the public health service.

It is nonsense to speak of standards by which to judge the NHS when there is no prospect that private medicine will take responsibility for the elderly and chronically ill — the major clients of modern medicine. It is nonsense to speak of healthy competition when the vast majority of doctors servicing the private sector also work in the public sector. It is even nonsense to speak of private medicine supplementing the NHS financially — the methods of achieving this are no more than pipe dreams, and the end result can be

Nuclear threat to Dorset's heath

From Mr C. S. Green

Sir, The threat to Dorset's heathland posed by the Winfrith power station plan is very real (feature, February 20). The relative lack of opposition renders Dorset's two sites particularly vulnerable, and technically attractive, may be a "red herring" to draw off the opposition.

When the original Winfrith establishment was built, great play was made of the landscaping of the site and of its purely research interests. Now two reactor buildings dominate the complex, one experimental and redundant, the other a small generator producing 20 per cent of Dorset's meagre electricity demand.

The new giant would supply much of southern Britain. The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority have even had the effrontery to erect notices warning of the adjacent site's status as a nature reserve protected, that is, until such time as they decide to destroy it. Now, alive to the growing opposition, they are claiming that less obtrusive cooling towers can be erected, a small comfort considering that a nature reserve destroyed, the site and still be monuments to the inefficient energy conversion of large power stations.

The irony is that archaeological research on this very heath has shown that this natural wilderness is really the product of the explosive farming of Neolithic and Bronze Age man. Under their barrows lie the remnants of the original fertile soil while round about is the desolation they created from the 4,000-year-old post-glacial forest. The beauty of the heath is thus a warning to us. Today we are making the same mistakes in the clearance of the tropical forests.

From past experience a "half-life" of about 18 months is reckoned for active local opposition and media interest. Christopher Booker has thus provided timely refuelling of the two-year-old campaign and a spur to greater efforts against the desecration of this and other threatened landscapes.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SPAREY GREEN,
30 High Street,
Skeppany Handley,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.
February 24.

Enemies of Parliament

From Mr Ray Spencer

Sir, You said in yesterday's edition (February 23) "Political strikes are not consistent with parliamentary democracy". Are Mr Len Murray and the TUC no better than the Militant Tendency in their preparations in organizing industry-wide action against the Government's legal curbs on trade union power?

Yours sincerely,
RAY SPENCER,
18 The Spinnery,
Tattenham Corner,
Epsom,
Surrey.
February 24.

From Mr John Liddington

Sir, You assert (leader, February 23) that political strikes "are not consistent with parliamentary democracy" because they are the exercise of power in defiance of those who are elected to represent the majority.

This is not true. The political use by trades unions of the right to strike is, in itself, no more subversive (though it is far more effective) than the political use by business firms of the right to dispose of profit.

This is not to say that political strikes are not open to objection. The objection to them is the same as the objection to all strikes. A strike is a breach of promise secure from redress. A breach of promise is a wrong. A wrong secure from redress is an injustice.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LIDDINGTON,
University of York,
Hawthorn,
York.
February 23.

Secretarial duties

From Mr A. D. R. Holland

Sir, In your correspondence columns today (February 26), you have been addressed by a Secretary General and a General Secretary. It would be of interest to know whether the distinction between these two titles is generally considered to be one of class or function or a combination of both.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. R. HOLLAND,
7/8 Warwick Street, W1.
February 26.

Untapped resources

From Mr R. M. Huleatt-James

Sir, Have I uncovered a London borough's ingenious scheme to circumvent the recent House of Lords decision on the GLC supplementary precept and obtain forbidden finance for pet projects?

My local authority recently wrote to me promoting the merits of payment of rates by direct debit and its letter contained the following blather:

There are, however, extensive safeguards to the ratepayer which include the possibility that the Council might originate direct debits to your bank account without regard to the intended purpose of the payment or the amount due.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. HULEATT-JAMES,
10a Tabor Grove,
Wimbledon, SW19.
February 26.

Royal Academy of Arts

John Russell Taylor

Michael Church

Rosalyn Whitten, playing the gypsy girl, snakes her shoulders and bats her eyes as to the manner born; she gets up a nice turn of speed in her solos, too. A third newcomer to this ballet, Michael Crookes, shows all the qualities needed for her lover (glamour, a good jump, strong partnering, a bold presence), but does not yet

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OF THE YEAR**
1980 SATE Award

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MARKET

Cautious opening

COMMODITIES

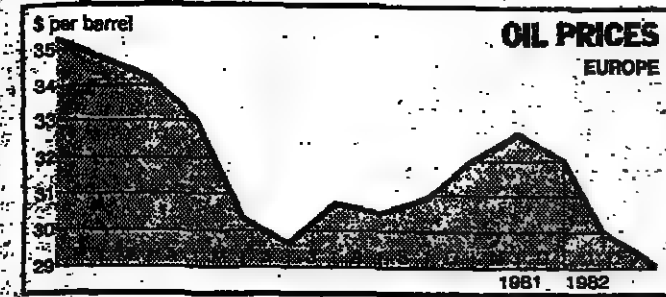
GOLD PRICE

TODAY

BUSINESS NEWS

Oil down to \$29

Oil prices are now in full retreat, with average spot prices for crude oil in Europe dropping from nearly \$33 a barrel in November last year to \$29 a barrel, or even lower now. North Sea oil has been trading at around \$30 a barrel, \$5 a barrel below its official price, while Saudi Arabian crude oil has been sold at more than \$4 a barrel below its official price of \$34 a barrel.



US upturn hopes dashed

The leading United States economic indicators dropped for the ninth month in a row in January, dampening hopes that what appeared to be a slight increase in the December figures signalled the beginning of economic recovery.

They also raised doubts that President Reagan's forecast of an upturn by the spring will occur. Instead, the index of leading indicators showed a 0.5 per cent decline in January and a 0.3 per cent fall in December, according to revised estimates from the United States Commerce Department.

Burmah out of Croda battle

Burmah Oil has effectively withdrawn from the £79m battle for control of Croda International. It announced yesterday that it would not be raising the terms of its offer as many in the stock market had expected. The bid will remain open until March 4 but acceptance so far have been minimal. Croda shares fell 6p to 76p.

Business Editor, Page 17

West Country as business sunbelt

The West Country could become Britain's California, with small businesses providing industrial expansion in essentially rural areas, according to a report published today by the Economists Advisory Group. Small business is making progress, the report says, but it is hindered by a lack of capital, premises, skilled labour and individual enterprise. Other obstacles are deficiencies in the educational system, taxes, rates, planning restrictions and too little say for business in local government.

MARKET SUMMARY

Cautious opening to account

Gilt and Duffie, the troubled international commodity broker, which hit the headlines last week after a share price of \$1.4m, slipped 3p to 140p yesterday.

The City believes there is still worse to come and the £500,000 written off for losses in the trading may prove to be on the conservative side. But having lost 36p in the last three trading days there is growing speculation among dealers that the group may soon be the target of a bid.

The balance sheet remains healthy and the prospects for overseas traders to pick up one of the few public British companies to trade on the London Metal Exchange has its attractions. The shares are not expected to fall much further and some genuine support is reckoned to be round the corner.

The trouble of Smith St Aubyn, which earlier this year announced a trading loss of around £20m, showed signs of recovery. Its recent attempt to raise £2.7m by way of a rights issue to help out was well received by shareholders.

Of the 8.5m extra shares issued around 98 per cent were taken up. So it was left to brokers Hoare Govett to place the bulk of the 160,000 shares with institutions yesterday.

The rest of the equity market opened the new account on a cautious note, wary of the possibility of a tough deflationary budget from the Chancellor next week. However, a rally by the pound and further indicators began to ease the market of yet another easing of interest rates saw an improvement in confidence.

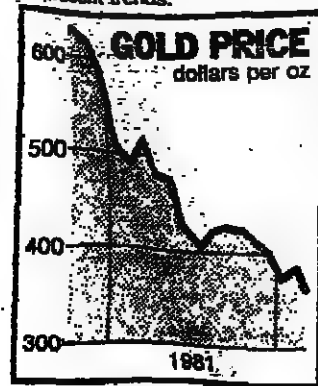
The FT index closed at its high for the day 3.5 up at 550.8, after opening 1.8 down at 550.8.

Gilt products further rose to 2 1/2 in thin trade also buoyed by the hope of a fall in interest rates.

Sentiment was helped by some impressive profits from Fisons.

COMMODITIES

The price of gold sank to its lowest level since September 1979 in London yesterday morning, when it touched \$358.75 an ounce, against Friday's close of \$363. Despite a brief rally in the afternoon the metal finished trading only \$1 higher at \$359.75, down \$3.25 from Friday. There is no sign of an end to gold's decline, which began several months ago, which American interest rates and a strong dollar continue to depress sentiment. Some experts believe the price could fall to \$350 or lower on present trends.



TODAY

Joint Land Requirements Committee issues first report on housing needs. Opening of second International Production Engineering and Productivity Exhibition, Ottawa, Canada. March 2, United Kingdom oil reserves. February capital issues and refinancing. February: 1981. 1982. 1983. 1984. 1985. 1986. 1987. 1988. 1989. 1990. 1991. 1992. 1993. 1994. 1995. 1996. 1997. 1998. 1999. 2000. 2001. 2002. 2003. 2004. 2005. 2006. 2007. 2008. 2009. 2010. 2011. 2012. 2013. 2014. 2015. 2016. 2017. 2018. 2019. 2020. 2021. 2022. 2023. 2024. 2025. 2026. 2027. 2028. 2029. 2030. 2031. 2032. 2033. 2034. 2035. 2036. 2037. 2038. 2039. 2040. 2041. 2042. 2043. 2044. 2045. 2046. 2047. 2048. 2049. 2050. 2051. 2052. 2053. 2054. 2055. 2056. 2057. 2058. 2059. 2060. 2061. 2062. 2063. 2064. 2065. 2066. 2067. 2068. 2069. 2070. 2071. 2072. 2073. 2074. 2075. 2076. 2077. 2078. 2079. 2080. 2081. 2082. 2083. 2084. 2085. 2086. 2087. 2088. 2089. 2090. 2091. 2092. 2093. 2094. 2095. 2096. 2097. 2098. 2099. 2100. 2101. 2102. 2103. 2104. 2105. 2106. 2107. 2108. 2109. 2110. 2111. 2112. 2113. 2114. 2115. 2116. 2117. 2118. 2119. 2120. 2121. 2122. 2123. 2124. 2125. 2126. 2127. 2128. 2129. 2130. 2131. 2132. 2133. 2134. 2135. 2136. 2137. 2138. 2139. 2140. 2141. 2142. 2143. 2144. 2145. 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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Cyprus is so British - Panayides

What I like about people who want our money is that they are so British. Take the Greek part of Cyprus. Yesterday the Cyprus Trade Centre, helped by the London Chamber of Commerce told us how like us they were. Their law is the same. English is widely spoken. The currency is based on the pound. Their accountants and lawyers are English trained. They do more business with us (wines, grapes, potatoes, and so on) than with anyone else.

Even so, Mr Tassos Panayides, the Cyprus High Commissioner, wants more English money and know-how. Cyprus is a tax haven (brass-plate companies pay only 4.25 per cent tax) and it is apparently an economical place to set up business, tax wise, if you wish to penetrate the Middle East. Larnaca has an industrial free zone.

However, of 1200 enterprises in Greek Cyprus, only 200 are British. The Cypriots hope that this reflects our exchange control (until recently) rather than anything else. But do not expect amazing tourist package deals. Cyprus does not have the hotels, or indeed the inclination to accommodate "down market" holiday makers.

The only Ex British Greek Cypriot businessman of consequence in this country, that I know of is Mr Leo Spinks of the leisure group of that name. He will not be speaking tomorrow at the London Chamber of Commerce conference. I do not know why.

Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, appears no longer to need the flamboyant services of Tony Ball, the super salesman he appointed four years ago to breathe life into the company's international marketing operation but who has now decided to quit.

Ball, noted for the excellence of his after-dinner speaking, has performed his task at BL admirably but he does not fit in any more with the new, steadier, less aggressive BL corporate marketing image.

Ex-Ford man Trevor Taylor, Ball's second in command, who is tipped as his successor, has the distinction of being the only executive whom Sir Terence Beckett, when chairman of Ford of Britain, said he would re-employ. Usually, those who leave Ford are destined never to return.



"Ere Elsie. According to the DOE, we married women only work to provide the luxuries of life."

The Churchill of crime

Monica de Hellerman is trying to make crime pay at least for conference organizers like her. Miss de Hellerman, an American, is organizing a symposium here in London at the Churchill Hotel (March 11 to 13) on Crime in Business.

Her speciality is in having the people who commit, investigate or prosecute crime to address delegates at this kind of conference. In this instance Miss de Hellerman is promising a videotape of alleged KGB defector Kari Tuomi discussing the ways in which his former employers pinch American and British business secrets.

France's Communist Transport Minister Charles Fiterman is facing similar problems on Paris transport fares as the GLC's Ken Livingstone has on London's bus and tube fares. But whereas Livingstone wanted the fares to be subsidized by rate-payers, Fiterman looked to employers. The project has been killed - not by France's legal equivalent of the House of Lords, the Conseil Constitutionnel - but by Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy who does not want to raise industry's costs.

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Philip Potts has been appointed group secretary of Barclays Bank, in succession to the late Mr Douglas Johnson.

Mr David Marks, a local director of Barclays Bank's Manchester district, has been appointed a Caribbean director at Barclays Bank International's Caribbean head office in Barbados.

Mr Edward D Collins has been appointed a non-executive director of Hanson Trust.

Opec's surpluses are dropping fast. Michael Prest examines the financial implications

Recycling oil funds — the rules of the game start to change



Clerks at the Saudi Investment Bank, Jeddah: Arab banks will take an increasing role in recycling surplus cash built on the sale of oil

For almost a decade one of the world financial markets' primary concerns has been "recycling" — the current account surplus of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. But there is now widespread speculation that the days of recycling are over. As Opec surpluses are depressed by falling oil prices the 1980s look very different from the 1970s.

There is little doubt about the figures. On any reasonable estimate last year's collective Opec surplus was well below the record \$125,000m accumulated in 1980, and this year could well see it further reduced by a half to \$35,000m. At that level the surplus is the same in cash terms as it was in 1975, the first full year of steadily increased oil prices, but over the intervening years purchasing power has fallen by more than 50 per cent.

Opec's trade is therefore suffering in two ways. Individual members' gross revenue from oil exports may be insufficient to cover imports. First, since oil accounts for much the largest part of Opec foreign exchange earnings, and since prices for commodities other than oil are also at the lowest for 20 years, the outlook is serious. Second, the terms of trade have shifted against Opec, possibly for the first time since 1974. The cost of imports continues to be forced up remorselessly by inflation in industrial countries, while oil prices fall. It may be that over several years reduced oil prices will also cool inflation, but in the meantime Opec members will have to borrow, as Libya did last year, or dig into their reserves built up during the boom.

As the table shows, eight of the 13 Opec members have only small foreign exchange reserves, measured either absolutely or relative to their needs. The four Arabian members and Libya, by contrast, enjoy a felicitous combination of high oil production, and small populations.

The implication is that the first five in the table will contribute most, if not all of the Opec surplus this year, and possibly into the mid-1980s. Even if Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest exporter and foreign exchange earner, does cut its crude production from 8.5 million barrels a day, Opec collectively is unlikely to go into deficit unless oil prices collapse in a manner which is not generally anticipated.

The prospect, therefore, is of a small surplus, concentrated in a handful of countries. "Recycling" will not stop, but the scope of the exercise will be diminished. Critically, the massive redistribution of income which characterised the middle years of the 1970s will be replaced by handful of countries with payments surpluses — a common enough state of affairs. By the same token, however, it will be much harder to blame currency instability on oil prices and Opec surpluses.

On this logic, the financial system will be saved from the uncertainty caused by powerful flows of "hot" money. In one respect at least bankers will return to more recognizable territory: the cash which would have passed to oil exporters, back to western and Japanese financial institutions, and out again, will in part skip the first stage. To that extent the world financial system will be a little simpler.

But the banking business marches on. The worry is that Opec members faced with balance of payments deficits could well resort to borrowing from those same banks which only a year or two before were competing for their deposits. Some of the funds will, of course, come from Opec members still in surplus. What is emerging, however, is how exaggerated was the recycling idea: acting as intermedi-

THE SURPLUSES

	\$000m
1975	35,000
1976	38,000
1977	33,500
1978	13,200
1979	83,000
1980	126,000
1981 (estimate)	70,000
1982 (projection)	35,000

THE RESERVES

	\$000m
Saudi Arabia	181,600
Libya	33,400
Kuwait	76,200
United Arab Emirates	38,600
Qatar	16,100
Iran	3,000
Iraq	31,000
Nigeria	4,500
Algeria	4,800
Gabon	700
Venezuela	7,700
Ecuador	700
Indonesia	10,000

aries between the source and application of funds has always been the purpose of financial systems.

The two facts that, put crudely, the cash is still in the system and that "recycling" will continue, albeit in a different guise, suggest that banks will not longer need to mean less banking business. But they do imply changed business. The vital trait of Opec surpluses was that they were liquid assets searching for investment outlets.

For currency, political and administrative reasons many

Opec members, particularly those with big surpluses, retained a high proportion of their excess revenues on deposit rather than investing in fixed assets, bonds, equities or other securities.

This is not to say that investment is about to dry up. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the other surplus countries will continue to be net investors abroad. Interest alone on previously invested funds almost matches oil revenues and therefore guarantees income to the host of intermediaries and advisers who swarmed around the Arabian money pot.

On the whole, however, the emphasis in future should shift over the next few years from dampening the instability threatened by huge financial flows rapidly accumulated to more limited and specialist concerns for countries' individual requirements. Recycling is moving from the general to the particular.

Three consequences follow. The climate of international financial operations will alter, possibly for the better. Governments and banks will no longer need to worry as they did six or seven years ago about the affect on the dollar and exchange and interest rates of apparently indigestible Opec surpluses.

Such phenomena may well spring from other causes, but blaming the Arabs is less

convincing with every fall in the oil price.

This general improvement, if such it proves to be, will take time to show through, however. The second consequence is being felt now. Whatever happened on the exchanges, banks involved in recycling earned profits from handling the funds. Extra deposits were translated into extra loans, some to the Third World, and balance sheets swelled. Then came commissions from stockbrokers, bond salesmen, commodity dealers, and the whole panoply of investment advisers.

If part of this business is to be replaced, it will have to come from sources nearer home. Banks, stockbrokers and others who opened Middle East branches will therefore need to justify costly overheads. Offices in Bahrain, Dubai and Jeddah will either close, suffer a contraction, or become more closely involved in the local markets.

That process has already started. But what is less noticed, although it is partly the consequence of these trends, is that Opec institutions, the Arab banks notably, are making inroads into a recycling business which was recently dominated by western and Japanese houses. Arab banks and sister companies such as the major Kuwaiti investment houses are firmly established in the syndicated loan and bond markets, and are poised to move into the related areas.

Being Arab and local helps a great deal, of course. Rich private investors who abound in the Gulf like to do business with their compatriots — even if they are Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian — and they occasionally feel uncomfortable about the publicity which can surround the activities of Western banks. More important, Opec states with investible surpluses have encouraged indigenous banking and related expertise. The Arab Banking Corporation, the Gulf International Bank (both based in Bahrain), and a number of smaller banks have been set up. Governments and rulers as shareholders.

One plausible outcome, therefore, of diminishing Opec surpluses is that a higher proportion of the recycling trade will pass into the hands of Arab or Indonesian or Venezuelan banks. This represents a transfer of financial knowledge and skill which, in the long run, could prove as significant as the transfer of income caused by soaring oil prices in the mid-1970s.

rather like the Countdown card, which would give them immediate reductions on all sorts of purchases. We would be creating a bulk-buying vehicle with the clout to get large discounts for members.

Members would also get a £3 voucher which could be used for admission to a game on specified days, so they would immediately get their money back, and there would be any number of merchandising opportunities such as T-shirts, car stickers, carrier bags and so on.

J. Walter Thompson also has a number of merchandising ideas based on the "We'll Be There" theme, including badges reading "I Was There" and incorporating the scoreline of the match the spectator had seen and milk bottle collars to remind people of their local team's forthcoming matches.

Quite how the two campaigns will be knitted together has yet to be decided. Both schemes are still technically just proposals which have to be approved (and their budgets found and finalised) by the League's commercial sub-committee, though after their enthusiastic reception at last week's meeting this is likely to be a formality.

Marketing obviously is not the only answer to football's problems. The product itself has to be improved, with better facilities at grounds, a reduction in violence on the terraces and a more positive approach on the field.

Nevertheless, there is little doubt that by calling in the professionals, League clubs have a better chance of withstanding the recession next season.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13 3/4%
Barclays	13 3/4%
BCCI	13 3/4%
Consolidated Crds	13 3/4%
C. Hoare & Co	13 3/4%
Lloyds Bank	13 3/4%
Midland Bank	13 3/4%
Nat Westminster	13 3/4%
TSB	13 3/4%
Williams & Glyn's	13 3/4%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 up to £250,000 at 12 3/4% £250,000 and over

Business Editor

Burmah loses its nerve

Burmah Oil has done its reputation no good over the lame handling of the bid for Croda. The takeover was being trumpeted as a core element in the group's newly-framed strategy to build up a speciality chemicals business, so yesterday's decision not to up the ante for Croda puts something of a question mark over the group's development.

It seems silly for Burmah to argue that it would have been prepared to raise its terms slightly after the 1982 profits forecast but for the big dividend increase which has swept the shares out of its reach. The truth of the matter is that Croda chairman Sir Freddie Wood is a past master of the takeover scene and has been outmanoeuvring Burmah all along.

In what always looked as though it would be a hotly-contested bid, it soon became apparent that the original £73m offer never stood a chance, but the stockmarket has been sending out fairly clear signals that it would have been prepared to listen more seriously if the offer had been backed by another £20m. Many agreed that this would still not have been an outrageous price for a company that was evidently on the mend.

Clearly, Burmah was frightened of appearing to pay too much for an asset spending in the 1970s. But in looking for fresh ways of determining its future similar growth by acquisition will not be easy now that Croda has escaped its clutches.

For its part Croda has a lot to live up to after the jolt to its share price. Forecasts of the last couple of months and it must be hoped that the market will not upset these plans. Croda shares dropped 7p to 75p after the news at which level they can just about justify the fundamentals.

Burmah, however, is unlikely to bid over its 14.9 per cent Croda holding as a crude investment, so the possibility of a share placing is likely to overhang the price. In the event, only Croda shareholders are likely to feel hard done by, because of the company's realising their holding at levels that have never been seen before and might not be seen again.

Services

Growth area

Barriers to invisible trade are rapidly becoming a vogue issue. Last month the Committee on Invisible Exports in London set up a body to examine the question. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris has been beavering away at the issue for some time, chiefly at the behest of the United States.

This is intended as a prelude to a new round of world trade negotiations aimed, in part, at reducing barriers to cross-frontier trade in fields like banking, insurance, shipping, telecommunications, advertising, consultancy among others.

The Americans, in particular, have been pushing hard for greater liberalization. That is hardly surprising: more than half of the American gross domestic product comes from the services sector, even if Government services are excluded. In the case of Britain, the proportion is about two-fifths. This is about the same as for most other Western countries, with the principal exception of Germany.

For many of them, services are more important than manufacturing. Yet, until now, people have been worrying more about de-industrialization than about building up their services industries, although according to classical theory, there is a normal tendency for countries to develop from agriculture to manufacturing to predominantly service-oriented economies.

According to Ronald

Shelp, the author of "Beyond Industrialisation" (just published by Praeger), political institutions have always tended to lag behind economic reality. This is true today when the services industries are pushing for greater political recognition as it was 150 years ago when the industrial classes were beginning to assert themselves in a world dominated by the landed gentry.

Ronald Shelp is an executive of American International Group and chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce International Service Industry Committee. The effectiveness of the services lobby in America can be gauged from the fact that two pieces of draft legislation are before Congress aimed at bringing the law governing services into line with that for trade in goods.

The problem is that while many countries have become service economies, few people have considered the implications of this. Will a service-oriented economy be built on supplying low-skilled personal services or will the skills and talent required be developed? What does it mean for employment and growth? Will it bring an end to pollution, capital shortages and economic fluctuations? Does it imply a growth or reduction in the size of Government? They are questions that need addressing, otherwise the development of a world economy in which service activities play a prominent role will, in Shelp's opinion, inevitably lead to conflict.

Barclays

Confident

At first glance Barclays' results are mildly disappointing showing only an 8 per cent pre-tax gain to £567m. Moreover, most of this has come from the international side, while the UK operation has been a disappointment. The United Kingdom parent bank is down for the second year running.

Barclays Bank International (BBI) has had a good year, growing strongly. International net interest income rose to £200m, a 37 per cent increase on £146m. The North American operations have done much better than the previous year and though higher had debt provisions — reflecting the involvement in Poland and elsewhere — and increased interest on loan capital have contained the increase. BBI still managed an improvement from £160m to £198m before tax.

On the domestic side Mercantile Credit's achievement was reflected in the advance from £38m to £52m profit before loan interest and the drop in the group tax charge from £152m to £105m on account of leasing. But the parent bank's profits were down from £291m before loan interest to £267m.

Barclays claims a 1/2 per cent rise in domestic share, doubtless helped by its growth in mortgage lending. But lower interest rates, a further small swing from current to deposit accounts and a rather higher rise in staff costs — up by 15 per cent — than say Nat West, appears to have accounted for the drop.

Domestic had debts provisioned by Barclays have fallen, although not by the huge extent seen at Nat West.

The underlying domestic performance from Barclays and Nat West was probably broadly similar if this is taken into account, for not as good as Lloyds.

The balance sheet growth at Barclays from £37,100m to £48,000m gives an indication of why Barclays recently raised £100m on the bond market to strengthen its capital base.

Meanwhile the 19 per cent dividend rise and indication that it will be maintained after the one-for-five scrip shows there is no lack of confidence. At 48p the prospective yield is 7.9 per cent.

Football trying to score with absentee fans

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING: THE SELLING OF SOCCER

By Torin Douglas

Music and emotion have always been powerful sales weapons. Last week the 92 Football League clubs were persuaded that they could well provide one answer to the game's appalling financial problems, though not until next season.

The chairman saw a presentation from the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson of a campaign aimed at getting the country's armchair soccer fans back in the stands where, in the club's view, they belong.

The strategy is unashamedly emotional, playing heavily on the excitement and atmosphere of actually being at a football match. Central to the campaign is a football-style song — "We'll be there" — which is virtually guaranteed to hammer its way into the nation's consciousness in the way the best advertising jingles have done over the years.

After years of declining attendances and increasing financial problems — culminating in last week's decision by Hull City to call in the receiver — the football clubs are starting to look seriously at technical business in any conventional business have been commonplace for years.

Six League appointed a marketing manager, Graham Walker, who moved from the Conservative Party's ad agency, Saatchi and Saatchi, where he was a director. Walker masterminded last week's marketing presentation to the chairmen and he went about the exercise in the same way he would for any major marketing company.

He conducted research, to find out how the product was perceived and what its problems were; he briefed a number of advertising agencies and saw presentations from them; he then selected

two approaches to be shown to the League chairmen.

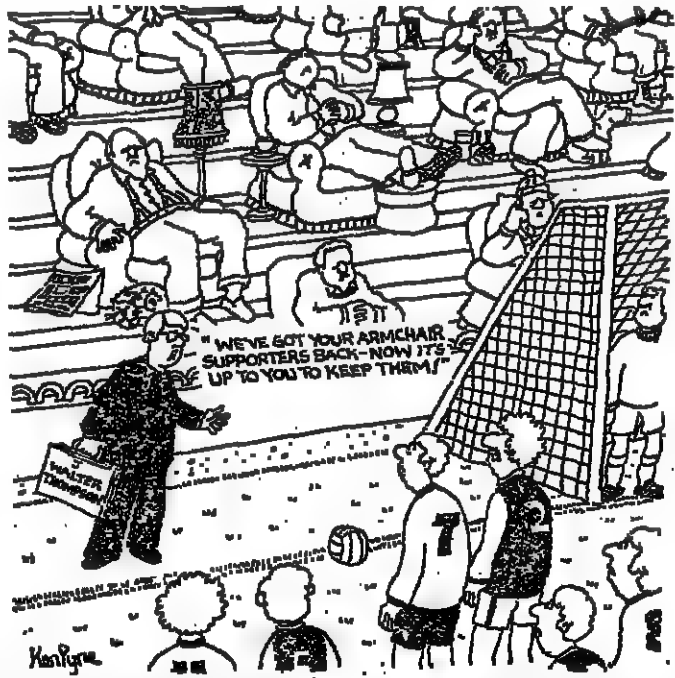
"One approach is designed to capture the emotions," says Walker, "and the other is designed to offer football spectators a better deal. We think this combination, together with other proposals we have put forward on public relations, sponsorship, new media opportunities and new product development — in the form of an indoor game called Soccer Six, which we shall be launching on a pilot basis at the end of this season — should bring back spectators and improve the financial viability of the game."

The J. Walter Thompson campaign is central to the plan. One marketing expert said it was one of the best presentations he had ever seen, for any product, and it was undoubtedly responsible for arousing the chairmen's enthusiasm for the whole marketing package.

Football resembles most marketing commodities that are in decline, except for one thing — it receives over 150 hours of television coverage a year, something that most marketing companies would pay millions for, either in straight television advertising or in the form of sponsorship.

J. Walter Thompson pinpointed the reason that this television coverage was not helping the game. Television was not actively taking spectators away from grounds — League games are not broadcast live — but it was making football look very bland through its presentation.

"Television coverage of soccer is intended as an entertainment in itself," says John Falne, a J. Walter Thompson director. "It is not there to sell live soccer and it



has a homogenising effect, which has built up the apathy and inertia of the armchair supporter.

"This homogenising effect weakens the emotional experience for the viewer and we have to put this across. You cannot rationally argue people into going to football games — it must be an emotional sell."

In its presentation, the agency showed clips from interviews they conducted with football supporters. "You don't get the excitement on television," said one fan, in his mid-thirties. "It's hard to explain — you have to be there to know what it's like."

To rekindle this atmosphere, Thompsons has proposed a television campaign which will build up the excitement of going to a football match — shots of fans queuing at the turnstiles, the floodlights coming on, jubilation at a goal and so on — with the stirring "We'll Be There" as the soundtrack. In addition to this theme advertising, which could be likened to the generic campaign run for bread (also a J. Walter Thompson project), milk and eggs, Thompsons has proposed that the clubs should do their own "brand" advertising.

Such campaigns would be aimed at the "fair weather" supporter, who only goes to games when his club is doing well or is playing a glamorous rival.

Unfortunately, of course,

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Pctn	Ch	Yd	Div	Yd	P/E	Fully
124	100	ABJ Hldgs 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—	—	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	75	—	4.7	6.7	11.0	15.4	—	—
51	33	Armatage & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	5.5	2.3	8.5	—	—
205	187	Bardon Hill	200	—	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8	—	—
1	1	CL 11% Conv Pref	1	—	15.7	15.7	—	—	—	—
104	69	Deborah Services	69kd	—	6.0	8.7	3.3	6.5	—	—
131	97	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.9	11.8	24.3	—	—
83	39	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	8.1	—	—
78	46	George Blair	52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind Pref Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.3	10.3	—	—
106	100	Isis Conv Pref	106	—	15.7	14.8	—	—	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	—	—
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3	—	—
334	258	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8	—	—
60	51	Scrymgeour "A"	60	—	5.3	8.8	9.2	8.5	—	—
222	160	Torday & Carlisle	160	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—	—
15	10	Twinkl Ord	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinkl Ord 15% ULS	78	—	15.0	19.2	—	—	—	—
44	25	Unilever Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—	—
103	73	Walker Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8	—	—
263	212	W. S. Yates	228	—	13.1	5.7	4.3	8.8	—	—

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Street fighters with police protection

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

A couple East Side kids: the Aerosols hit town. Silver-Burns: It led to the...
 The clear that knocked out 10 to beat him on points, he...
 Two tough youngsters, Kelvin Smart and Kevin Wallace...
 When I reminded Al Stankie...
 When I reminded Al Stankie...
 When I reminded Al Stankie...

Cambridge improve but Oxford mystify

By Jim Ralston

It was almost an imperial...
 Coni could be described as...
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 Cat. (272 illus.) £7
 Thursday 4th March at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
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Edited by Peter Dear

**One Man's
11.0 Bride**

Midnight, including 12.0 Midnight Newsroom; Weather; Motoring Information On Stereo from 12.0 midnight). 1.0 Truckers' Hour with Sheila Tracy.† 2.0-5.0 You and the Night and the Music with Charles Nove.†

BBC world Service can be received at Western Europe on medium wave (848kHz 463m) at the following times GMT: 6.00 Newdesk 7.00 World News 7.00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Ploughman of the Moon. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.00 Collections. 8.15 Europe. 8.30

Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3
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 169th Act Overt 130:05-130:45
 170th Act Overt 130:50-131:30
 171st Act Overt 131:35-132:15
 172nd Act Overt 132:20-133:00

South African rightly excluded at court

Chief Immigration London (Heathrow) parte De Klerk

Dunning, Master of Lord Justice Griffiths Justice Kerr.

Delivered March 1]

passenger from South sought leave to enter Kingdom as a visitor pending his appeal against his refusal to enter for an period without holding clearance for the the decision of the officer that he did not qualify for entry for the immigration (394) was held to be proper.

of Appeal dismissed an appeal of Mr De Klerk from the Remand Centre, Aldershot, from Mr Griffiths' dismissal of his application for an 'order of certiorari to quash the decision of the immigration officer at Heathrow airport on February 23, 1981, refusing him leave to enter as a visitor.

Mr K S Nathan for Mr De Klerk, Mr Simon D Brown for the immigration officer.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mr De Klerk was born in South Africa in 1937. He had been much married. He had two sons, the eldest of whom he had married here in 1960 as a visitor, had been married in 1964 in South Africa to someone whom he had met in England and had two sons. There had been a divorce about 1972.

"He came in England again in 1971, and subsequently married an English woman. There was a divorce in 1976. A third marriage was dissolved in 1978.

"He returned to England and left in 1979 after a conviction at the Central Criminal Court on a grievous bodily harm charge.

When he was in England he had met a widow who was a sister of his first wife at London Airport. She had a married son and three grandchildren. Mr De Klerk wanted to marry her.

He arrived at Heathrow on February 23, 1981 and sought leave to enter the United Kingdom for three months to see his two sons. He then asked for indefinite leave of entry and spoke of his plans to marry.

The immigration officer concluded that Mr De Klerk had no claim for entry as a visitor under paragraph 1 of HC 394 as he was not genuinely seeking entry for a visit of only three months. He did not qualify for entry for settlement as he did not hold an entry clearance for that purpose.

Lord Justice Griffiths had dismissed Mr De Klerk's application for judicial review and had refused bail. So he had to go to South Africa on terms of Government would pay fare if the appeal succeeded.

He did not come to court for entry provisions (52) because of paragraph 52) because of a current entry clearance. The immigration officer acted under any manner of unreasonably.

Griffiths and Lord Justice Kerr (unreported 27, 1980) showed that he had left during the which he had been and then returned, start afresh and to do proper leave.

The appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Griffiths Justice Kerr agreed.

Solicitors: Herbert Co., Twickenham; Triton.

